

THE THIRD
OF THE STORMS

EVIL BEAST



INFERNAL
ASSAULT
BEVERAGE

Bloodsoul

Warhammer

IRONIC BEAST

high spirits

CHILDREN OF
TECHNOLOGY

IRON
KUBRA

Nocturnal

Alotok

Flame
Gunslinger

HELL

Damn
of
Hollows



Hell-o again, maniacs! It's been quite long since I released the previous issue early this year, since I had less free time to do the zine thing. I started to study. My (non-)musical project HELLMONTOR started to take shape and then I kicked out the other guys when things started to take a different direction from how I wanted them to go, just before recording the 1st demo, but now I'm back and will do my best(ial) to unleash some recorded stuff ASAP! I also started a tape-label/Metal distro with my friend and Metal comrade Gil, called "Israhellbanger Records" (check out www.israhellbanger.com), and last but not least - I'm fuckin' lazy, hehe! I did my best to make Evil's Best#3 worth the wait though! I wrote at least twice more reviews than in the previous issue, did a better design and added more useful information (zines guide, contacts etc.). Hope you'll enjoy the final result! Contact me for more updates through the following contacts: werewolf12345666@gmail.com, www.myspace.com/werewolf_il, Sergei Pismeny / Yoseftal 10/30/ Kiryat Motzkin 26390 / Israel.

Thanks and Hello to:

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No thanks and no respect to the rip-offs Henry from Witchaven band and Rob "Evil" / Evil Army band! Die in violence and rest in festering slime, faggs!

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They created one of the best Death Metal albums back when the Scandinavian DM scene was pretty young, they redefined Black Metal in a love it or hate it way and took the evil image to the extreme (even though without burning churches and stabbing their friends in the back), and now they're back to their drunken Heavy Metal/Rock/Punk Rock roots, again not giving a shit about what others could think about it. They are DARKTHRONE, and their last 3 albums are among my 2000's favorites! I'm glad and honored to have done a review with one of the coolest people in the Metal world, who is absolutely down to Earth and appreciates humor enough to be able to even joke about himself! Let me present Gylve aka Fenriz! Enjoy, or FUCK OFF AND DIE!

Hi Fenriz! How are you there? What are you and Ted busy doing lately, apart of answering countless interviews like this one?

I am doing most of the interviews. I started the first song for the new album in June already, 2 first songs for this album was recorded in December and in 5 days we record two more. I use 2-4 months on every song now. Transylvania hunger for instance was recorded AND made in just 2 weeks. I find it difficult but FANTASTIC to make songs for Darkthrone these days, because the portable studio sets us back to WHERE WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN in 1988. But to make good primitive songs, it takes me a lot of time and consideration. Also here at myspace, it is crazy, this year i also started the BAND OF THE WEEK blog, where all the people can discover a new cool band every 6th day. 3000 come by here every day, it doubled since i started to answer and communicate here since early 2008



Wow! That's really great of you to support new bands! It's great to see that well known musicians like you have such a down to Earth attitude! I'd like to ask you about the idea of supporting other bands by drawing their logos as patches of Mr. Necro's vest like it was done in the last 2 albums. First of all - who came with the idea of creating this personage? How were the bands chosen? Are you planning to continue doing it in the future?

Yes, when Ted said LETS USE DENNIS DREAD as cover artist, we came up with the idea that we wanted this guy on the cover... And then I wanted him to have patches of bands like Rush, Manilla Road... But there would be copyright problems, so instead I thought I could have one patch with a band I know and support from before, and every time I will ask the band if it's ok. First it was DEATHHAMMER, then NOCTURNAL and this time it will be MORNE from USA (for fans of AXEGRINDER, SACRILEGE, AMEBIX, HIS HERO IS GONE etc.)

Yeah, this seems to be a killer idea indeed! There are two inevitable questions I can't avoid from asking as someone who lives in Israel... The first is, as far as I know - you're familiar with the local band TANGORODRIM. What's your opinion about their music and are you into any other local bands beside them?

They contacted me already when they lived in Russia in mid 90s! They don't create anything new, but they do the mid 90s Darkthrone style BETTER than us, I have mentioned them in MANY interviews where people that only want the Darkthrone from 1992-95 can listen to TANGORODRIM instead of us. They even came up to Elm Street in Oslo to celebrate my 30th birthday!! I liked a lot of Astral Projection and other Israeli GOA style as well; actually the first riff of the DARK THRONES AND BLACK FLAGS came to me while listening to Israeli artist SANDMAN!!! I also like Blizzard from Israel, but prefer even more Blizzard from Germany (the ones with PURE FILTH AND MAYHEM album)

I never heard about Astral Projection, Blizzard and Sandman... What do they play?

Astral plays GOA, Sandman played more Psy style, Blizzard is of the Tangorodrim guys I think, like Frostgrave, Hell Darkness etc.

I'm glad that you've checked out "Hell Darkness" already! This stuff makes me miss Tangorodrim less now! The second question is about the NORSE ARYSK BLACK METAL writing on Transylvanian Hunger... What was the idea behind it? Are you still in touch with Varg, who contributed a lot to this album?

No, the story is that Varg was in jail. He had no way of contacting "the people". So I asked him if he wanted to speak through lyrics on this album I had just made (Transylvanian Hunger). He said yes, but it was no blatant propaganda, he just wrote artistic northern lyrics for 4 of the songs (I had lyrics for the other 4 songs). So that was it. We didn't have much contact since 1996, cuz i got only into music by then. I am tired of that other question.

How is the next album (which I'm sure that you've already started to work on) going to sound, or please at least name some bands you're currently inspired by the most?

Actually, I found out as a coincidence that many of my songs sound a bit like DEATH SIDE (Japan metal punk from 1987-1990). But my first song is inspired by show no mercy SLAYER 83, METALLICA kill em all 83, English dogs 1985 and misfits, and then a type of nuclear assault riff like their brain death song, but finally I changed it so now it sounds more like usual mid 80s Swedish punk like PUKE or ASTA KASK or...DEATH SIDE haha!

My new song is like a mix of Motörhead 79-83 as usual, but then it took off completely into something I THINK is inspired by Savage Grace "Master of Disguise" album from 85 and Agent Steel from 85 and also OMEN from 85. I am basically inspired by 1979-1985 styles since 2005.

And then the final part is the first that is ACTUALLY inspired by DEATH SIDE.

But our style now is:

TED: Heavy Metal

ME: My own kind of SPEED METAL/NWOBHM-Punk

And how often do you listen to old Darkthrone's stuff yourself? What's your opinion about what you used to play in the 90's? Which local bands from that period are you still in contact with?

Not often. I mostly hear the new stuff, so I know the material enough to answer all the questions I get about it. Maybe I listen to 40 minutes a year from the 90s - 2004 stuff.

I'm mostly in touch with the thrashers, AURA NOIR, INFERNÖ, AUDIOPAIN. But I'm in contact with Olve Immortal of course. No one in Mayhem, although I was always in contact with them. But I live a secluded lifestyle now, and I am basically only pals with people into the 80s 70s and 60s styles of Rock and Metal. But I'm also in touch with Kenneth NESEBLOD RECORDS/WAKLEWÖREN, and Nattfrost...But I didn't know Nattfrost in the 90's.

In 2008 you released "Frostland Tapes", which is a reissue of your early demos. Is there any chance to see the BLACK DEATH demos unleashed to the masses as well in the future?

I even think that the LAND OF FROST demo sucked so much I got rid of it as soon as we did our second demo SNOWFALL. The Black Death demos aren't valid, we started to record 5 MINUTES after we first picked up instruments and started to play. PURE SHIT. But it was a start, at least. Punk and Metal in a wild mix as usual, WITHOUT TALENT hahahaha

Ok, let's play some associations game now!

*** Slayer mag**

Slayer mag changed my life in 1987. My motto is THE ONE THAT'S HEARD THE MOST MUSIC WINS!

*** Hellhammer (the band, not Mayhem's drummer)**

Funny thing is that when I was a kid I tried and tried to like Hellhammer, but didn't succeed until 1989! SUDDENLY I understood it. I like trying hard.

*** Emperor sunglasses**

I believe all I have said about that. Musicians that choose fancy sunglasses...Wanting to look "slick" or like a robot... It's not for me.

*** Keyth Moon**

The Who...Sure I like many of their songs. I am not into idolism though. Names and such don't interest me much.

*** G.G. Allin**

Meant a lot to me in my destructive 90's. I went to hell with his music, haha!

*** A country which is not Canada, that you would be ready to dedicate a song to its Metal scene!**

Brazil...But AURA NOIR sort of already did that.

*** Arnold Schwarzenegger**

Hehe, we have a lot of internal humor with his SATISFIED GRUNT, also done very well by MAD TV sketches. Anabolic steroids are cheating - just like Cradle of Filth is cheating Black Metal

As for the DESTRUCTIVE 90's - do you mean alcohol or drugs? I know that nowadays you hike a lot in your area and go to the gym, what's your opinion about these tools of self-destruction nowadays?

Destructive - personally, because of too much partying, but also because ALL the Metal styles died in the 90's. Then in the 00's - RESURRECTION!!

Please give me a list of your favorite 10 Metal albums ever!

That's not very possible, considering half my collection of music is fuzz guitar related and I have at least 9500 titles.

My faves THIS WEEK is:

BASTARDATOR: Identify the Dead 2008 Canada

AURA NOIR: Hades Rise 2008 Norway

SAVAGE GRACE: Master of Disguise 1985 USA

THOR Only the Strong 1985 USA/Canada

OMEN Battle Cry 1984 USA

SLAYER Show No Mercy 1983 USA

GRIFFIN Protectors of the Lair 1985? USA

YOUTH OF TODAY We're Not in this Alone USA 1988

HOLY TERROR Terror and Submission 1987

IRON MAIDEN Piece of Mind 1983

Iron maiden is the best and most important Metal band of all time and it will ALWAYS be so. But this list reflects what i listened to and liked most the last week. Also while lifting weights at the gym.

Oh yeah, I totally agree about Iron Maiden! UP THE IRONS! Talking about gym and your everyday life in general... Can you please describe a usual (if there is any) day schedule of the ultimate hiking Metal Punk?

Mon-Friday: Get up at 06:00, put music on at 06:20, then listen to music constantly until I've done my day job and the gym and back to my woman.

10-11 hours or other days I have to get my mail or do some chore... Mostly 9 hours of music. Then i do 1-2 hours extra work in front of computer, Darkthrone / music business with the underground / over ground. I get all sorts of requests, ANYTHING you can imagine.

In weekend I go tenting or relax/work out/more underground Darkthrone business.

Any last but not least words to me and the readers?

Don't forget to listen to MANILLA ROAD!!!

Thanks! I won't!

Contact: www.myspace.com/officialdarkthrone

To those who haven't read my reviews about this band's EP and the band's previous incarnation "Viravoid"'s demo – this is a young band, consisting of very talented teenagers from the US. They started as a very intense Thrash band, but now seem to get more and more Black Metal, though still with balls and force! Here is the interview I did with their guitar player/vocalist Carter, enjoy!

Hi Carter! How are you man? What stuff are you blasting in your stereo while answering this interview?

First album by Endless Dismal Moan, Chaos 9 was a fucking madman that must never be forgotten....

Who the fuck are they? Never even heard about EDM!

EDM was created by Chaos 9, a man who I think had to have been suffering from severe evil delusions and hallucinations. He committed suicide on June 25th 2008. His art truly killed him, I will always give all my respect to the artists who live 24/7 all day everyday for their art. I will always be a huge fan of EDM but I would never expect anyone who isn't already insane themselves to enjoy EDM, but his music clicks with me for sure and probably too much.

Whatever... Viravoid's debut demo was recorded back in 2006 and you're just 17 years old today... When the Hell did you start listening to Metal and playing a guitar? And how the Hell did you manage to sing so infernally at the age of 14 already?!

Since my birth I have always been obsessed with darkness, fear and death. It was not till I was about 11 or 12 that I discovered that there was shit like Slayer and Kreator out there. I fell in love with Thrash Metal... Never before had I heard such intensity in music, so much aggression and rebellion. I had been playing guitar for a few years before that and had always been a musician rather than a guitar player. So I just started writing anti human Thrash Metal and all that shit would eventually end up on the "Plague Called Warfare" full length later in August 07.

What does "Viravoid" mean and why did you decide to change the band's name?

Viravoid means nothing and that's why we changed the name. Dawn of Wolves gives us identity. Viravoid just sounds like the name of a Thrash Metal band. We are not a Thrash Metal band, we aren't anything but Dawn of Wolves. Our name represents everything about who we are. Dawn of Wolves is a tool to create a legend that will live forever in parallel to this universe.

What the fuck? Legend? Ehmmm, explanation please? And what are your views about Thrash Metal nowadays and about the huge amount of Thrash bands that appear like mushrooms after a rain nowadays?

The legend needs not be explained now, the story is clearly written in the lyrics and music. For some it may be hard to open your mind to what the story contains, those who would understand the story best are those like myself who suffer in this rat race, modernized world of human scum.

And the new Thrash scene is fucking boring. But when I was a Thrasher I sure as Hell didn't think that. I still enjoy bands like Violator, Toxic Holocaust, Warbringer, Merciless death ect... But I really think they are the most blatantly unoriginal bands ever. They literally live to copy the sounds of 80's. Out of all the new Thrash bands that came from LA, USA, Brazil, and Europe the only two I still listen to is probably Violator and Nocturnal. By the way Nocturnal is a sick ass fucking Black Thrash band with a great original sound, "Arrival of the Carnivore" is fucking amazing.

Agreed about Nocturnal! Anyway, back to the PCW... How did you record the Plague Called Warfare EP? How many copies of the cd-r have you spread and how was it accepted by those who heard it?

We recorded the Viravoid EP, Plague EP and Plague Called Warfare full length at this place called Sleepout studio, which was waayyyyy too overproduced. It was a fucking waste of money. We made about 50 to 150 cdr copies, we sold pretty much all of them or gave them away, the response was good for sure. We were sending them all over the world and then came all the set backs, and things were silent for a while.

What bands were you into while writing the music for it? I find it really original and refreshing sounding and can't find almost any direct similarities to any other classic Metal bands there!

People have always told me Dawn of Wolves has a distinct sound, and I am very glad of this. I hate unoriginal music more than anything. I hate when bands just fucking rip off all the great Metal gods just because they have no ability to take inspiration from it to make something even better, instead they just fucking copy and create more shitty ass music that floods the underground music scene.

To answer the question on what shit I was into at the time... It was pretty much bands like Destruction, Kreator, Morbid Saint, Sodom, Dark Angel, Possessed ect.... Just good ass hateful Thrash.

Well, I don't fully agree with you about bands that just rip the Metal gods hehe, but PCW definitely proved that these aren't just empty words you're saying here! You were supposed to release some stuff through the Korean INFERNAL KAOS prods. Why didn't it happen?

We had a release show on Halloween booked, he was gonna send us 250 copies and also pay me back for the money he owed me for the recording, but two weeks before the show he said some shit about his family being sick or something and then shut down the label. At the time I was fucking pissed off, but now I really just don't care, PCW is in the past, I don't ever look back. And plus I really just hate the quality of the recording.

And if someone just asks you to send him a cd-r/dub of the PCW full length or suggests you to release it, won't you agree to do it?

I would never make CDR's myself for a full length album. Also we do have Jim Sadist from Nunslaughter working on getting it released. It should be available in early 2010 and may be available on Hells Headbangers Records website. Those who love Old School Thrash Metal can get a copy of PCW and those who like old school BM can get a copy of the "Darkness as Black as Evil" EP.

The new songs on your Myspace sound very different from the PCW EP and you changed your logo too (the logo reminds me of old THE CHASM's one a bit). Do you think that you're going to stick to this genre for now, or are you planning to explore even more different grounds in the future under the banner of DOW?

I wrote everything that was on the first full length from when I was about 12 to 14 years old. I was so very little exposed to real evil music. I knew very little of Black Metal and Death Metal. But as I have aged, my hate for this world has increased and so has my imagination. Dawn of Wolves is the only reason I live now, it is only an instrument to create the legend of the wolves.... You see, everything I write lyrically and musically is all connected, it is all one story. The story is not premeditated, everything that is written in the story is a parallel to me or anyone's journey through this shitty world. Our style has been growing eviler and more hateful over the years. We focus more on creating an atmosphere for the story to be told in, an atmosphere that is ancient and without political or human like themes.

And what bands are you inspired by nowadays?

First and foremost my favorite musician ever is Nubuo Uematsu.

Beside him the main artists that inspire me are Bathory, Burzum, Dissection, Windir, Ulver and Xasthur. Recently, after being on a binge of only European (mostly Scandinavian) extreme Metal, I took a look back to what is here in the United States. The United States carries some of most unique and amazing Black Metal bands to ever exist. Shit like Judas Iscariot, Absu, Black Witchery, Profanatica/Havohej, Krieg, I Shalt Become, Weakling, Leviathan, Xasthur, Grand Belial's Key, Wolves in the Throne Room... All those bands are so unique and are all amazing artists. Xasthur has been a favorite for a very long time now; Malefic is a true artist and has created the vilest music ever to exist. Many Black Metal fans hate Xasthur because it doesn't sound like a rip off of Darkthrone or Graveland. But those people just make me laugh anyway.

Well, I hate Xasthur because it sounds like a fart to me, haha! Anyway, how often do you perform live and what bands have you played with so far?

We perform whenever we can. All music scenes have gone to shit, and the scenes that are popular are just lame ass deathcore or hardcore trend music. For a band that plays medieval Black Metal it's hard to get lots of shows. Our best shows are usually in Lexington KY, there are many punks and Metalheads that love our shit and many great bands there. We have a split with our good friends in Tombstalker from Lexington to be released by Pragmatic Records very soon. We have also shared the stage with the old school thrash band Destructor, and "Soulless" in Cleveland. Recently we played with our good friends in Strigoi VII in Columbus with Darkness Undying, Acheron, and Afterlight. It was a good show with great bands, but USBM has no more enthusiasm these days at shows really.

I've never been into USBM, so I'll have to believe you, hehe... What releases are you planning to unleash in the near future and what merch can still be bought from you nowadays? (I really hope you're still spreading the PCW EP, hehe!)

We have the split with Tombstalker soon, and then after that we are just going to finish learning all the rest of the songs written for our next album entitled "Beyond the Forest" and continuing to distribute our Darkness as Black as Evil EP. Jim Sadist from Nunslaughter will soon be releasing our first album and the Viravoid EP on one cd, that will be out in early 2010 probably.

Now it's time to give me a list of your all time favorite Metal albums EVER!

Hmm..... This is hard. All of the following albums are more or less tied.

Windir - Soknaldalar, Arntor, 1184
Dissection - The Somberlain and Storm of the lights bane.
Peste Noire - La Sanie... and Folkfuck Folie.
Burzum - All
Xasthur - All (Funeral of Being is best)
Bathory - All
Ulver - Bergtatt

Any last words, before the dawn, before the grace of god?

Hahaha! Man, I was like 13 years old when I wrote those lyrics.... Even then I didn't believe in god. I just really sucked ass at writing lyrics. Thanks for the interview.... Ah- Bartz.

Ha! Wish I could top the level of your writing back then! Thanks for the interview and good luck!

Contact: <http://www.myspace.com/therealdow>

I didn't know anything about this great Finnish Death Metal band before occasionally discovering them through Asphyxiate Records, and they got me really fuckin' impressed with their stuff. Now it's time to spill some more light on this gem!

Hi guys! How are you there nowadays? Please introduce Bloodsoul!

MIKKO: Hi Sergei! I'm fine, thanks for asking! Bloodsoul is a five piece DM act from Finland. Our music is pretty much based on old school Death Metal, but we also draw influence from the dirtier Rock N' Roll sound of Motörhead and others.

You don't have too many releases under your belt, but the inspirations and the quality can be already easily noticed. Have you been involved in any other bands before Bloodsoul?

JUHA: We all have our musical histories and parallel musical lives, and we've all been involved in various bands and projects for our whole adult lives, more or less.

Alongside with older acts like Slugathor, bands like Stench of Decay, Swallowed and you seem to keep the old DM banner waving high and mighty. How have your demos got accepted in Finland and in the underground worldwide?

MIKKO: The response has been ok.

And how often do you play live? What bands have you already shared the stage with?

MIKKO: So far we haven't played any gigs, but maybe this will change in the future.

Recently the new Beherit's album entered the 10 best-selling charts of Finland and sold even more than some ABBA compilation during the first week since it was released. How come that Metal is so big in your country in your opinion?

MIKKO: It's a small country and you don't really need to sell that many albums to make it to the charts. I think Metal fans are also more likely to buy records than your average pop listeners, as you can't hear that much Metal on the radio. The long, cold and dark winters may also be one reason behind the success of Metal music. Who knows, maybe it's the climate that makes us more susceptible to dark and gloomy music in general.

The cover artwork and the title of your last demo "Ancient evil" brought H.P. Lovecraft to my mind immediately. Are you inspired by his stories? Any recommendations of other good books you're drawing inspiration from in order to create morbid Metal or Death will be appreciated!

JUHA: I'm a big fan of good ol' Ward Phillips, and pretty much grew up reading his stories, so naturally that has left its black mark upon my forehead. Most of the lyrics I've written for Bloodsoul do have a Lovecraftian twist to them, but generally the lyrics are more about creating a certain type of atmosphere instead of focusing on any individual stories.

For further reading, Lovecraft's contemporaries and followers are naturally a good place to start, and there's also a big bulk of Necronomicon-related literature that you should check out. And from there, it's only a small step to Sufism and certain desert mystics of old Arabia. But generally speaking, any chthonic influence is healthy.

Just curious - how far do you go when it comes to Darkthrone's discography? Do you like their recent albums and/or BM period, or are you only into their debut?

MIKKO: I must say that I like their earlier BM albums just as much as I like their more recent albums. Panzerfaust is probably my fave from them.

As far as I'm concerned - you've signed a contract for a release through Asphyxiate Records. Is it going to be a full length? When is it supposed to be out?

MIKKO: Yes, we have signed a deal for a full length album with Asphyxiate Recordings, and the album will be recorded in November/December this year (2009). We'll try to publish the album as soon as possible after that.

What demos/merch can be ordered from the band nowadays?

MIKKO: At the moment we don't have anything for sale.

What are your 10 favorite albums ever?

JUHA: It's too difficult to name any specific albums, but I'd say my plate consists mostly of all types of Metal, with a side dish of some hard rock and punk, seasoned with a pinch of jazz and classical music, and served against the background of odd ambient esoterica.

MIKKO: This is hard question to answer as my music taste varies so much. I like Death Metal, Heavy Metal, some punk, rock music etc. But some albums From Motörhead, Black Sabbath, Celtic Frost, Iron Maiden, AC/DC and DM Classics for example would be my choices.

Any last words?

Thanks for the interview!

Thanks YOU! Hope to hear more killer stuff from you in the next future!

Contact: www.myspace.com/bloodsoulmetal

I've already written about almost all the local Metal bands that are active nowadays and worth being mentioned in my opinion, since the rest of the active local bands simply suck in my opinion, but these young Thrashers surprised me when I saw them sharing the stage with Strident (see issue#2) and I decided to give them my support. Check them out!

Hi Beerage! How are you there? It's introduction time!

Hello Sergei, we're fine! We are a young Thrash Metal band from Israel, from the cities of Raanana and Herzeliyah. Yarin 'Noblesse' Swed is our lead guitarist, Bennet Stern is the rhythm guitarist and vocalist, Teddy 'Satan' is on the bass and Sa'ar Hasson is on the drums.

Whose idea was it to start the band? How and when did everything start?

Back in the days of July 2008, Yarin met Bennet because they had the same guitar teacher. Soon they got to know each other better and better until the idea to start a band came along. In the beginning, the direction was to form a Thrashcore-Nuschool band influenced by bands like Hatebreed or Machine Head.

They looked for a Bass player and a drummer but unfortunately didn't find anything, so they abandoned the idea of the band for a while.

A month later, Yarin met Teddy on the internet and after talking to him for a while he discovered that he is a bass player.

Back in those days, Yarin and one of his good friends had a Metal party's line in a small club called the Martef in Ra'anana. On the second (and the last) Metal night of the lines they thought it would be a good idea to perform a show beside the Metal party. So Yarin formed a one day band with him on guitar and vox, Bennet guitar, Teddy (which he met on the internet) and some drummer we met.

The 'show' was a *fabulous disaster* - the players didn't know their parts, Yarin didn't know the lyrics and it all gave us a lot of shame.

After that 'show' we played a few times on open stage nights on the Martef club, this time with the drummer Saar Hasson.

After the summer vacation was over, Yarin and Bennet decided that it would be a good idea to form an Old-school Thrash Metal band, so we took Ted and Saar on bass and drums and the band began. A few weeks after the band began, Bennet became the lead vocalist, after showing better vocal talent than Yarin.

***If I'm not wrong - none of you has reached the age of 18, when you can buy beer legally yet. Why did you decide to call the band this way?**

Simply, it's because we like drinking and well... Let's say we can always find a place to buy good beer even in our young age! We got the name Beerage after Bennet's mum played scrabble with a friend and put down the word 'Beerage'. We thought it's a good name for a band so we checked in the internet for the meaning of it. Many people think that our name is spelled "Beer-Age" or "Be-Rage", and a few people even thought it's "Bee-Rage" but actually Beerage is a slang word meaning hallucinations caused by drinking alcohol.

Haha! Great idea! Didn't know about this thing... Young band that play Thrash is quite a rarity in our country, where the plastic aggression of so called "modern death metal/metalcore" is the trend right now. Why did you decide to play this genre? Does it make it harder to find bands to play with or cause any other problems?

Well, we got tired of all the Modern Death Metal/Core Music and shit like that, which is the trend today, and we wanted to refresh a little bit with something you can't find a lot in Israel. We can also say that we like Thrash Metal and we think that playing Thrash is what we play the best. We won't lie and let's say that it is hard to be a Thrash band in Israel because of the low popularity of the genre, but we love it, so we just keep it Thrash, instead of going with the flow and play a genre like DeathXcore or some shit, like everybody does, when we can do blasting Thrash Metal music that will sound good.

Is there a main writer in the band, or do you write everything together?

First, Yarin writes the basic guitar riffs (or taking one that Bennet wrote) and put the riffs together to make them a song. Then he is introducing it to the rest of the band and each one brings his own thing to the riffs, so you can say we all have give a hand in the composing process, but the main writing is done by Yarin. Most of the lyrics are written by Yarin, but there are a few songs that were written by Bennet. In our upcoming release, "The Nuclear Pesticide" EP (recorded in Black Horizons studio) we also have a producer, Meir Gur, who helps us in the recording process and gives us new ideas. As a person who's not in the band, he hears our music and gives his opinion and helps us upgrade it!

Is it so important for you to have a professional production? I hope it will still sound raw enough for the genre! By the way, I remember that you covered Venom's "Black Metal" and Slayer's "Raining Blood" on a gig I recently attended. Are there any plans to feature any covers in this upcoming EP?

We have a producer on the upcoming release and we got the sound upgraded to a level it sounds really clear, but we it's still Thrash and stick with our favorite genre, except for a few untraditional surprises you can hear. No cover songs will be featured in the EP, only pure Beerage material!

What's the story with the unreleased demo? Why did you decide not to sell it in the last moment?

In the last passover vacation, we recorded a homemade demo called "Unleash The Anger" which included 3 songs we recorded that day and also a 2 live songs. We recorded those songs in our drummer's (Saar) house with direct recording and electronic Guitar Pro drums. It's unnecessary to say it all went really shitty and after all the recording and mixing process was done, we were really disappointed with the final product, so we decided to not sell it.

Now I understand... Hope to see it unleashed as soon as possible! Probably the hardest question now - German or US Thrash? This really is a hard question. Everyone in the band has their own opinion; Bennet likes mainly US thrash, Ted favorite's German Thrash, And Yarin likes a mixture of both styles.

Now gimme a list of your all time favorite 10 Metal albums!

Exodus - Bonded by Blood
Kreator - Pleasure to Kill
Iron Maiden - The Number of the Beast
Slayer - Reign in Blood
Vio-lence - Eternal Nightmare
Tankard - Zombie Attack
Judas Priest - Painkiller
Megadeth - Rust in Peace
Metallica - Kill'em'all
Black Sabbath - Black Sabbath

Any last words to me/readers/posers/whoever?
Have a good time and liste nto our new EP!

Sure I will! Thanks for the interview and good luck!

Contact: www.myspace.com/beerage

Necropsia – Die fucking Bastard (Full-length, Tape/CD, Evil Thrasher / Witchhammer, 2005)

The great artist Chris Moyon (France) and Sickness666 (Thailand) have much in common, in my opinion. Sickness' drawings are inspired by Moyon's works and look great, but both of them drew artworks to many albums that suggest nothing good, except for the artworks. Like this one... I got this CD in a blind trade, hoping to here more Thrash/Death, done the old Chilean way, but it's just boring, monotonous BM, (un)inspired by the Norwegian sound of the 90's, and no South American bestial stuff. Just repetitive tremolo riffs, typical "OH SATAN! SATAN!" lyrics and a vocalist that sounds like a dying frog... All the ten songs sound equally boring and there are no tunes that sound better than the rest. If you're into countless Norwegian BM bands that sound the same, this is for you. If you expect this Chilean band that exists since 1990 (they haven't released anything before 2001, so maybe the foundation year is inspired by Nargayroth?) to play something that resembles their native classics – sorry to disappoint you, that's not the case here. 4/10

High Spirits - Demo 2009 (CD-R, Self Released)

Bands like Iron Maiden, Judas Priest, Saxon and the likes should pop-up immediately in this review, but his demo also has much in common with the US band Exorcist, not because of the music, but because there is no information about this band's lineup. Rumors say that Exorcist had Virgin Steele members in the lineup, but who really knows? Why do people that create such a great music (both Exorcist and High Spirits) prefer to have their identities undisclosed?! Another question one would ask if he heard this cd-r would be "Wasn't this demo recorded in the early 80's?!"

No matter who the people behind this band are, one thing is obvious – they know what true Heavy METAL with balls is all about! There are 5 songs here and all are pure NWOBHM-style masterpieces, which have that magical warm vibe that the great originators of the genre had. This not bullshit retro stuff, but a rare case of a release that has the very same atmosphere of the NWOBHM and doesn't sound like a clone that has no identity (even though their identities are still unknown, hehe).

The 4 songs here last for 17 minutes. The 1st, the 3rd and the 5th songs ("Torture", "Wanted Dead", "Don't Look Down") are played on high-temp, while the 2nd and the 4th songs ("Night After Night" and "Wings of Fire") are slow to mid-temp ballads. The 4th and 5th songs are 1 track on the CD, by the way. All the instruments are heard well and there are actually no weaknesses here I could point at. Seriously, HM is coming bank, in the shape of bands like Enforcer (Swe), Superchrist, Hellhound, R.A.M., Iron Kobra and this one! 10/10 Buy now or cry later!

Infernal curse – Black Forces of Evil Demo 1 (Tape, Self released, 2008)

In this demo's case – the title and the artwork says it all! Raw, primitive and done absolutely the oldschool way (recorded through a 4 track tape) by the BAPHOMETAL zine editor and his friend. After an intro that features some bell ringing and inverted talking, through the layers of dirty as Hell raw noise one can hear guitar riffs that remind of INRI era Sarcophago, very basic drumming that can hardly be heard except for the snare (not as brutal drumming as Sarcophago's though) and bestial vocals. The borders between Thrash, Black and Death Metal can't be seen here, just like in the case of the originators of bestial Sudamerican extreme Metal like Vulcano, Mutilator and Sarcophago, but this demo would sound way better if the songs had also solos in addition to riffs, which are good, but sound a bit tiring without solos and make the music way less memorable. All in all, this stuff is not bad, but I hope to hear some more interesting guitar work in the future. 7 / 10



Witching Hour – Rise of the Desecrated (Full Length CD/Vinyl, Evil Spell/Undercover Records, 2009)

I reviewed this band's demo in the previous issue and was honored to have my zine's name immortalized in this album's thanks list and now that it's out – I can say that I'm really proud that it appears there, because this album simply rules! If you can't decide whether you prefer IN THE SIGN OF EVIL or OBSESSED BY CRUELTY, SENTENCE OF DEATH or INFERNAL OVERKILL or BESTIAL DEVASTATION or MORBID VISIONS – you simply can't go wrong with this release! The sound here is as raw as in the demo and shows no progress, innovativeness or other signs of weakness, or in other words – this is a bit more than half an hour of pure relentless Teutonic Thrash in the best traditions and in its purest form! The only difference I noticed here is that the vocalist's voice sounds a bit different, more "drunken cavemen" a la Vektor from Kreator sounding and a bit less Black Metallish, but he sounds decent in both the LP and the demo, so while the klassik German Thrash bands continue to explore their abilities to write as shitty sounding albums as possible – this band's name can easily be added to the list of such keepers of the unholy traditions as Nocturnal and Hellish Crossfire. And if the 8 hymns of desecration is not enough for those who own the CD version – the vinyl version also features a cover of Venom's Witching Hour! Sell your soul to the devil and get this album, Metalheadz! 9.5 / 10



Infinitum Obscure – Obscuridad Eterna (7" EP, Blood Harvest Records, 2009)

Blood Harvest is a killer Death Metal label and this 7" is another great proof! From the first look at the cover and the first spin – the only band I could think about was "THE CHASM". Though it's shorter than any The Chasm's release, this 7" is enough to get the idea. 1 instrumental track, 1 original track and 1 cover to Dissection's "Son of the Mourning" make it obvious – this is the best Mexican DM band since The Chasm relocated to the USA (this 7" is dedicated to Jon from Dissection, and they even made their song sound worthy for a change! And yes, I don't like Dissection...!) Think very heavy sounding, interesting and unpredictable guitar work with various temp changes from Thrashy to slow Doom-like parts with mesmerizing leads, that create something between very angry and dramatic atmosphere throughout the whole release. This band doesn't sound like a cheap clone, but rather a rare case of another as unique band as the one I compared it to, and there is no reason for any Dark Death Metal maniac not to give this band a chance. Hope to see them releasing more stuff in the near future for sure! 9.5 / 10

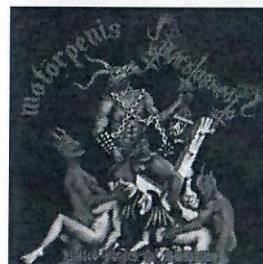


Dead to this World – Dominions of Death (7" EP, Iron Pegasus, 2006)

This side project of Stian aka Iscariah (whom I interviewed in the previous issue) was forged after he left Immortal and this is the 7" reissue of this demo, which got previously only spread to labels and friends. Despite being recorded in a studio, this stuff is raw as Hell and this rawness creates a great atmos-fear that fits this music quite well. This is dirty and ugly Black/Thrash just the way it was intended to be done since the early 80's! There are 3 songs here and all are well done. Expect Celtic Frost/early Sodom/Bathory inspired songwriting with a fair dose of Thrashy riffing, with which it's impossible to go wrong if you're into bands like Aura Noir, Nocturnal Breed and such. Killer appetizer for the full length that came later and is going to be reviewed (finally) now! Another interesting fact is also that this is probably the 1st Norwegian release that has a Chris Moya's artwork, which turns it into a rare case when a release with his b/w art sounds almost as good as another one that also has a yellow goat! This is also the 1st Norwegian band that got their stuff released through Iron Pegasus, by the way, if I remember correctly. Buy it and be possessed by Goatpower! 9 / 10

Motörpenis / Black Torment – United Forces of Blasphemy (7", Iron Bonehead, 2009)

Here is a very blasphemic split of 2 very blasphemic bands with a very blasphemic artwork! Despite the fact that Motörpenis claims to exist since 1997, that's their only second release, after the debut demo form 2007. Despite the MotörHEAD inspired band name – they play kinda Black/Thrash with obvious Destruction influences that can be heard in the riffs, though their vocalist's rusty voice does remind of Lemmy's. These songs don't sound too memorable from the first listen and there's not much to listen to if you heard the other bands I mentioned so far, but after a few more listens – the 1st song "The Call of Demons" can get stuck in the head for quite long, mostly because of the catchy chorus and the high scream in the end. The second song "Thresherection" is way less memorable, even though not much different in style. 6.5 / 10 for side A-Ikohlolokaust



Side B-blasphemy features 2 Black Metal assaults with kinda Death Metal-like vocals and intense riffs. Don't expect European "riffs through the air" here, this stuff is fast and violent indeed, as expected from a bunch of angry Mexicans! I would compare this stuff to Blasphemy, but unfortunately the drums on both "The Rise of Hellish Fire" and "Stabbing Mary's Womb" are a bit hidden somewhere behind in the mix, thus making the songs sound less destrvktive and violent, but overall – it still sounds pretty well done for a barbaric Black/Death band in this vein. 8 / 10 for Black torment, 7.3/10 for the whole 7".



Hell Darkness – Heartfelt (7" Single, Doomentia Records, 2009)

Tangorodrim's vokiller kept his word (see interview in issue#2) and his new project got already carved in black (and red) gold! For those who are not familiar with Hell Darkness yet – this is the new project of ex-Tangorodrim's vocalist/axe player, who by now seems to be one of the few people in this country who have an idea how to make decent Black Metal that doesn't sound neither gay nor useless. If the only thing I claimed that was missing in Tangorodrim's stuff was solos – this time the basic guitar work sounds more interesting and varied and not only cold drunken riffs a la Hellhammer and Darkthrone can be found here, but cool atmospheric melodies as well. (By the way - this 7" is dedicated to Quorthon). Hellcome to a journey into the dark underground of Hell! This stuff still sounds basic and raw as expected, followed by the simple Punkish drumming and blood freezing vocals, but it sounds pretty catchy thanks to the Rock N' Rolling riffs, slightly reminiscent of Tangorodrim's debut (rather their early works). All in all – the loss of Tangorodrim is compensated by another killer project that sounds as good and this appetizer for their future releases sound very promising, and I'm definitely not saying it just because even Fenriz enjoys banging his head to this 7"! 9.5 / 10



Rötten (Mex) - Thrash N' Roll (7" / CD EP, Crush Until Madness Records, 2009)

If this band was formed in the early 90's – they would appear on the "Headbangers Against Disco" 7" series for sure! This is Rock-N'-Rolling Motorhead/Venom inspired Blackened Speed Metal with nice solos, warm bluesy riffs that even reminds Metallica's debut, with alcohol-fueled anti-poser lyrics. Not innovative for sure, but definitely done right! I've got the nice looking special red haze 7" that featured 5 anthems, but the CD version has 2 bonus tracks, which I'm pretty sure worth getting as well. The only change I hope to hear in Rötten's music in the future is the vocals, which for some reason sound like they were made by a robot, but overall this is a strong start for a debut release of this new band. 9 / 10

Vow Dreams - Fog on the cold cemetery (Demo cd-r, Whitnes Prod, 2007)

I can't believe I'm wasting time and paper on this release, but if the band made the effort of sending me a copy (why?!?!?) – I'll do the least of writing some critiques on this thing, as they asked me to do. So what is it all about? Nothing but crap! This project exists since '97 and is still stuck at the level of 2 30+ years old retards with Emo Borgir and Marduk shirts taking pictures of themselves with candles in their kitchen with the refrigerator on the background and using these pics for the Xeroxed insert of the demo cd-r they "released" through some "label" called Whitnes Prod. I really hope that it's the way it was released, since if someone wasted money on printing a pro-CD version of this thing – he's a deaf fool. But that's not the reason why I consider this demo total shit, since the real reason is the "music". To make it short – think 2 men trying to imitate Cradle and Emo Burger and mix classic guitars, keyboards and disgusting screams of a dying frog and record it with such a shitty sound that an average Darkthrone clone band would be jealous. If it is a joke – it's not funny. If it's "serious" – it's really sad that they actually sound so bad. Avoid at any cost, it isn't worth your time and definitely not any amount of money. 0/10.



Front Beast - A Collection of Damned Souls (Comp. CD, Kuravilu / Denim & Leather, 2007)

This CD is a great alternative for these who missed the countless 7" EP's and splits this 1-man project's music got carved in during the years, with a total length of 77 minutes! For those who don't know this project – it's kinda "Black Heavy" Metal, done by Daniel aka Evil Avenger from Nocturnal. It's not that it's a combination of NWOBHM-like stuff with BM vocals like in the case of Devil Lee Rot, but a mixture of mainly Burzum-like ugly vokills and mid to fast temp tremolo riffage, which reminds a bit of Speed and Thrash (with especially obvious Destruction influences in the riffing I would say). It's primitive and raw, but it definitely doesn't sound like a bunch of early 90's Darkthrone inspired kids who fuck-up their sound intentionally. All the instruments can be heard well and there are many "simple but effective" guitar parts that make it somehow more varied than an average 2nd wave BM sounding band. There's much variety between the different tracks' length (between less than 2 minutes and more than 7 minutes) and some longer songs sound a bit repetitive, but overall it's recommended for any METAL lover and not only BM maniacs, nevertheless it's not just another band to listen to in the background while doing something else, since it's drenched with melancholy and despair and if you wanna feel the true essence of this music – you'd better listen to these songs carefully. By the way, this CD also has a nice bonus – a Xeroxed A4 page with a FB centered interview. Get it while you can, since it's limited to only 666 hand numbered copies! 9 / 10



Denim and Leather - Set the Spirit Free - Discography Tape (Comp. Tape, Slava Prod, 2006)

The title of this release says it all! This Brazilian traditional band exists since '92 and this nice pro-tape is a compilation of their songs from all the years. As expected from a HM band – there's a nice sound here, though some demo and live tracks sound rather raw (yet clear enough to be understood) and there are very nice covers of classic bands like Witchfinder General, Tygers of Pan Tang, Motorhead and of course a Saxon medley. Nice guitar work, great vocalist, just as one would expect from a dedicated Old School HM band. There's nothing innovative here, but it you like HM in its purest form as it was made in the early 80's – you can't go wrong with this band and you better hunt this tape and set your spirit free with 15 tracks (more than 1 hour!) of pure joy, since music that is very inspired by good bands is way better than crap that does sound original! Heavy Metal is DENIM AND LEATHER and DENIM AND LEATHER is HEAVY FUCKIN' METAL WITH BALLS OF STEEL! Buy or leave the fuckin' hole! 9 / 10



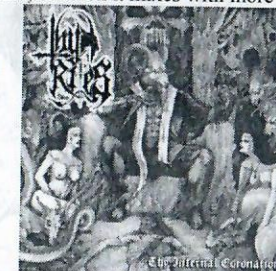
Karnarium - S/t (Full Length CD/12", Blood Harvest, 2008)

Even though this Swedish horde has been active since '98 and released many demos and some splits, I never had a chance to hear this stuff before I put my hands on this full length, which made me appreciate them a lot. Karnarium play Death fuckin' Metal with balls, larger than those of many other DM bands from their country! During the +/-50 minutes this album lasts, you'll be exposed to 9 very varied tracks that have many temp changes, from doomy stuff to very fast and thrashier songs, where the most common thing is the heavy as fuck sounding bass, that makes the music sound very raw and heavy, though the recording quality is great and everything is well heard. The rest of the musicians definitely know how to handle their instruments, so some nice solos can be easily found here as well. If you're into the heaviest artillery that Svensk Dödsmetal can suggest – try it out! By the way, for Impetigo fans – there's also a cover of WIZARD OF GORE here by the way! 9.5 / 10



Thy Rites - Thy Infernal Coronation (Full Length CD, AreaDeath, 2008)

Personally I expected to hear another bestial Brazilian attack of merciless Deathrash, but the result is pretty much different. It takes this album 2 minutes to start, since the intro, which is cut from some opera, lasts that long. And then the Metal kicks in, with decent Death Metal riffs and typical vocals, but then it mixes with more kinda Black Metallic melodic riffing and screams. I'm not a fan of mixtures of Death and melodic Black Metal, so the only thing I like here is the solos, since the melodic riffing doesn't fit with the growling in my opinion. Another thing I didn't like here is the filler parts of non-Metal music. Apart from the intro in the beginning – the 7th, last song closes with 6 minutes (out of 9) of some female screaming with keyboards samples and primitive drums on the background. WTF?! Call me musically close-minded if you want, but when I put a Metal cd in my cd-deck, I expect to hear some METAL! To add even more filler stuff to the album, there are also 2 bonus tracks, which are 2 songs from the album, probably recorded live and very raw sounding. If you're into stuff like early Satyricon – you might like it, but it's not a must. 6 / 10



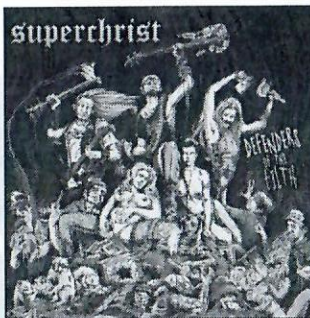
Exorcism (Ger) / Morbid Execution (7" Split, Deathstrike, 2009)

Here is a split of one of the many musical projects of Daniel from Nocturnal and a side-project of the guys from the Polish band Throneum. As expected – the result is a very morbid sounding dose of old-school Metal in the best(al) traditions! Exorcisms play 2 songs of very primitive and ugly Death Metal, with very bassy, rotten sound, mid-slow temp riffs and dark yet kinda Thrashy vokills (not really growling). If you're into straightforward DM with now signs of modernity, but pure bestiality, like Nunslaughter for example – there's no doubt you'll enjoy it! Warning: this is not for modern sterile "death metal" wimps! To add even more stench of rotting corpses to the atmosphere of impurity that Exorcism created here, Morbid Execution come to spill to this bonfire of devilish Metal their dose of oil, in the shape of Hellhammer-inspired riffing and drumming, raw sound and vocals that somehow resemble nowadays Darkthrone. Their stuff reminds me of the first 2 albums-era Tangorodrim, which is definitely a good sign for those who are into non-compromising dirty Metal with a big dose of Rock N' Roll in it. Overall both of these bands deliver the expected goods and do what they like to do really well, so check them out if you're into raw sounding Death Metal with balls! 9 / 10 to each band!



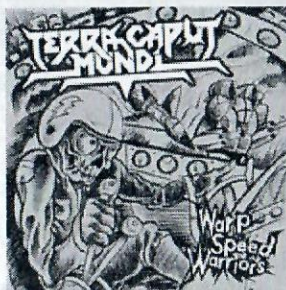
Superchrist – Defenders of the Filth (CD, Planet Metal, 2009)

For those who missed the interview and the previous album's review in the 2nd issue – Superchrist is a traditional Heavy Metal band a la Saxon, Motorhead, Wasp and many more class-sick bands, formed around a decade ago. This new album (their 5th) continues the direction of the previous one "Headbanger", supplying another dose of cool Heavy Metal with funny and cynic attitude that can be noticed already from the cover, the title and the track list, which features songs like "Same Old Shit", "Pease of Ass" and the one of a kind (oh really? :-)) "FUCK with your boots on"! The nice clean sound that made a big difference between Headbanger and the band's older stuff is here again and fits really well. Not over-produced, just decent. Musically there's everything you need from a good HM LP here – very nice solos, vocals a la Lemmy and even well heard bass lines... And last but not least – lots of fun! If you thought that there's no chance to hear a band playing genuine Heavy Metal in the 21st century – buy this CD and admit you were wrong! 9.5/10



Terra Caput Mundi - Warp Speed Warriors (Full Length CD, Self Released, 2008)

While Thrashers usually play as fast as they can and sing about Satanism, politics, ecology and the likes – this trio (2 guys and a female drummer) decided to play rather lazy mid paced Speed Metal and write lyrics about different galaxies, cosmic battles and similar sci-fi stuff. Their music is mostly mid-paced, but overall it's a pretty pleasant "more will than skill" release, even though it's all-pro released on a nice looking CD and probably recorded in a studio. While the drummer and guitar players do their basic work, the bass is heard well too, but the vocals can sound annoying until you get used to it, because of the lazy voice and the pretty ridiculously sounding female back vocals that sound embarrassing. The last 2 tracks, by the way – are covers of Manilla Road's cult NECROPOLIS and Metalucifer's HEAVY METAL HUNTER. These songs are executed with passion, but would sound much better without the funny back vocals parts and the solo going a bit wrong in the latter one, when the guitar goes out of pace at some point. Anyway, it's not as professionally played as it looks, but if the goal was simply having some fun in the studio and sharing it with other people, I guess it was achieved. 7 / 10



Infernal Assault – Prepare for the Assault (Demo CD-R, Self released, 2008)

While some young Thrash bands from LA get signed to major labels and keep playing mediocre stuff, some local bands try hard to gain some recognition in the ug and here is one of them. These teenagers supply a great dose of Thrash that sounds raw and aggressive as you would expect a demo recorded back in 1986 to be, but contrary to the majority of nowadays bands from the same area – it sounds honest to me. While having some obvious similarities with Destruction's riffing style, which was probably considered unique for me until many bands started to copy it in the recent years, they combine it with a dose of aggression that nowadays Metallica and Slayer should be jealous of. Apart from the not that original yet still ripping riffs, the angry as fuck vocals make it sound really lethal. Think Tom Araya screaming the fuck out of his throat with no attempt to actually sing, but still fitting the pace greatly. Maybe I find it so great because of all the young passion that can be heard in every riff and (cool by the way!) solo, but it actually doesn't sound too amateur and thrashes through the whole half an hour it lasts. So in case these guys decide to sell their asses to Nuclear Blast soon – I decided to interview them as long as they still Thrash like there's no tomorrow! 8 / 10



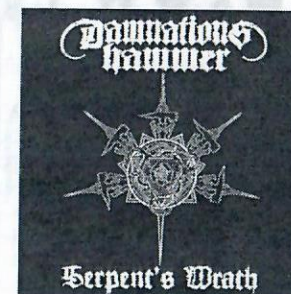
Recrucify - Grimorium Verum (Demo Tape, Self Released, 2009)

AAARRRRGGHHHH!! This unholy trinity is back for another fuck in the pentagram (see interview and promo review in issue#2)! Those who survived the promo and stayed hungry for more sonic terror – here comes a killer looking self-printed, totally pro-done tape (my also came with a cool sticker, which immediately found its place on my bass, and by the way – the logo and artwork are drawn by Milovan!) and totally obscure, raw as fuck sound! It's primitive and totally inhuman assault of dirty brutality, played fast and recorded in poor conditions, but from the heart! There's no too interesting musicianship and there are unfortunately no solos here, but random floyd games, but the unholy aura on this tape simply rules! If you're into true South-American bestial madness like Sarcophago's and Vulcano's debuts and the likes – you MUST buy it! If you're not – beware, this is not for weak-hearted ones and not for fags! 9 / 10



Damnations Hammer - Serpent's Wrath (Demo CD, Self released, 2009)

I'm not a fan of Doooooooooom Metal and I've never been, and the reason I bought this demo blindly was the cover, which looks heavily inspired by Celtic Frost. Since the price is only 4 pounds (including shipping worldwide!), the risk wasn't big, and I must say that the result is also very impressive! Musically it's slow-mid paced doom with obvious EP-era Hellhammer/early Celtic Frost influences. The guitar sound is very heavy (think Cathedral's debut) and there are very cool leads and solos to be found here as well. The vocalist reminds me a bit of Volker from Hellhammer. It doesn't sound original, but it's very professionally done and produced and one could easily notice that the people behind it aren't kids, but almost 40 years old men. If even to me it didn't sound too slow, there's a chance that many more Hellhammer maniacs, and not only them, will enjoy Damnation's Hammer's dark and heavy sounding stuff. Give it a try! 9 / 10



Warhammer – No Beast So Fierce (Full Length CD, Self Released, 2009)



It's about time for another album from this Hellhammering German beast! (Thanks for the CD!)

So what could you expect from a 2009 Warhammer album, composed by a band member that was born back when Celtic Frost already sucked? No matter what your expectations could be, one thing is obvious – this album is not a disappointment for those who like Warhammer's music so far! If you seek for some originality – go somewhere else, since the riffs still sound 666% Hellhammer-inspired! The album has a good sound quality, but it also has a dark and morbid atmosphere as well. Volker's lyrics are mostly either re-arranged Hellhammer lyrics, or even Warhammer's older stuff! Even the pretty much "personal" lyrics of "Total Maniac" is half personally statement against nowadays Thrashers and half re-arranged

Hellhammer's "Maniac"! Sounds like a recycle? I would say it is, but it's well done, as only Warhammer could (re)do it, contrary to countless Slayer/Darkthrone/Burzum clones that in most of the cases sound mega-pathetic. The only significant change different between this album and Warhammer's older stuff I've noticed here is the heavy as fuck guitar sound, which somehow reminds me of Satanic Rites, which is on the one hand great, and on the other hand not really surprising, haha! There's also a cool solo of some guest guitar player. Overall – Warhammer continues to honor Hellhammer, mostly the more doomy side of their music, and they're doing it great, with total devotion. Give it a try, or fuckin' die! 9.5 / 10

Nocturnal – Violent Revenge (Full Length CD (Displeased) / 12" (KBTMT), 2009)

This album leads to many conclusions about German Thrash today. Destruction should continue as a live only act, Sabina Classen has someone else to share the throne of the toughest sounding woman in Germany with, Nocturnal is in a great shape nowadays and this album is worth the 5 years wait! Once you reach the 3rd song "Slaughter Command", which appeared already in a 7" back in 2001, it's obvious that Nocturnal keep sticking to their guns, so if you're looking for a dose of genuine Teutonic Thrash that does not sound tired – they're the address! It's still the same poisonous Black/Thrash with heavily inspired by Destruction riffs, though I wouldn't say that it tops "Arrival of the Carnivore", since VR is a bit less barbaric sounding than the debut. The vocals aren't way too different from the ones of Mayhem (the ex-member) and overall it doesn't sound like the band has undergone any major changes since AOTC, which is good. Beware - the Thrashing Rage goes on! 9 / 10



Necros / Abnorm (Tape split, Nihilistic Holocaust, 2009)

Here is a double French Death Metal assault, released by the webzine/label "Nihilistic Holocaust". Both bands play Death Metal the unholy Metal way. Necros' style is mostly reminiscent of Incantation, with many various temp changes and heavy sound that could easily fit an early 90's Death Metal album. Their contribution to the split is 3 original songs + an Incantation cover, and though I'm not a fan of Incantation, those who like them will enjoy Necros' music for sure, since it's still well done for what it is. 8 / 10
After a short intro, Abnorm kick in with some sick mixture of Death Metal that has a rawer and thicker sound than the previous band. Their music is more varied and Morbid Angel and Deicide influences can be noticed here easily in the vocals, as well as more Thrashy sounding riffs and some melancholic parts that bring Black Metal to mind. The result sounds pretty homogeneous, but it's not for everyone, to say the least. What I didn't like here, as usual, is the usage of the disgusting effect a-la' Glenn Benton on the growls, but chances are high that this split could still satisfy many Death Metal fanatics. 7 / 10 to Abnorm, 7.5 / 10 to the whole split.



Front Beast – Black Spells of the Damned (Full Length CD by Isengrad in '06, 12" by HHR in '09)

I already reviewed a Front Beast's release in this issue and this project's musical direction doesn't need more introductions, but I would say that this time - less Destruction influences can be heard here and the riffs are slower than in most of the songs I heard in the compilation. This LP consists of an instrumental intro and 5 exclusive songs that have never appeared on any other Front Beast's releases, lasting around 40 minutes. Surprisingly, the intro brought Ennio Moricone's compositions to my mind (The Good, The Bad, The ugly, and more cult movies' soundtracks), but that's probably just me, haha!). As for the whole album's music in general, expect a big dose tremolo picking grinness of nevertheless catchy and memorable riffs, dark atmosphere and truly sick screams. If you expected this full length to have a more polished sound than the EP's – sorry to disappoint you, but FB still means sick atmosphere and good riffs, not triggered drums plastic aggression, gothic gayness or symphonic bullshit. That's one of the not many BM bands I do enjoy and this album is still a great introduction to FB's stuff if you haven't heard it yet. 9 / 10



Szarlem - Night of Blood (Full Length CD/Tape, Nykta/Herege Warfare, 2008)

Here is yet another side project of Daniel "Evil Avenger" from Nocturnal, or to be more precise – another Black Metal side project. At the first listen it sounded pretty similar to his stuff in Front Beast to me, but after some more careful listens I must say it's pretty different from FB, even though both the project have the same core of tremolo picking, but Szarlem's music is also loaded with cheap sounding keyboards that create a more atmospheric sound. It's kinda "Nature Black Metal" with a more Pagan BM touch I would say, than the more straightforward primitive BM direction of FB. Don't get me wrong – it's still primitive and raw stuff, but it does have a different feel and I would say it sounds worse. I've read somewhere that it's similar to early 90's Polish BM, so I guess it should be similar to early Behemoth, Graveland, Veles and such, but since I don't give a shit about these bands – I might be wrong. Anyway, it's not my cup of tea and I'd rather keep digging Front Beast, but if you're into such kind of BM too – try it! 6 / 10



Vault – Fuck off and Die!!! (Demo Tape, Dying victims, 2009)

Here is the 2nd assault of Dying Victims, this time on totally pro-done tape (and the sound is better than on Iron Kobra), again featuring a cool fresh band, this time the Malaysian VAULT. These guys know how to Thrash and this demo is not less than 5 hymns that will satisfy both US and German Thrash worshippers. Although there is German filth and simplicity in the riffs, they all have the American catchiness and above all – True Heavy fuckin' Metal spirit in every solo! The lyrics also leave no doubt that not MTV-2 was these guys' inspiration while creating this demo and a brief look at the track list ("Heavy Metal Attack", "Metal of Death" etc.) gives the exact idea of what this demo is all about. Get it as long as it's available! 9 / 10



Tudor – Antikrist - The Best of 2006 (Comp. Tape, Slave, 2007)

When I heard that it's a comp. of an old Black/Thrash band – I took my chances and traded for this tape immediately, but I didn't take into consideration the fact that this is a Czech band and their local bands are known for being weird and not really my taste (Root, Master's Hammer, Crux etc.). The songs here are mainly from 1990-1991 period and musically it does have a kinda evil early Black Metal atmosphere and rawness, but musically it's more experimental than I expected it to be. Thrash? Not really. It's mostly mid paced and here and there has keyboards and pretty virtuosic bass parts, so probably Master's Hammer fans would enjoy it. Overall it has nice Heavy Metallic guitar work, but probably the band's native language made it hard for me to survive around 50 minutes of listening to this tape. MH and Root fans – better try it out! 7 / 10



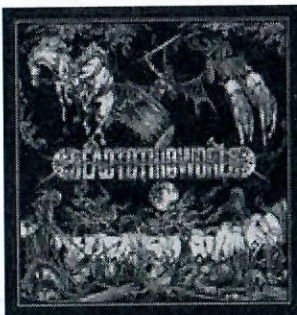
Faster - Resignation Fatal (Demo Tape, Underground Defenders, 2008)

Faster is a new Chilean (formed in 2007) Thrash band and "Underground Defenders" is a brand new Chilean label and that's the debut release for both of them. From the outside – it's a very nice looking, totally pro printed, both sided tape. As for the musical content – here you get 23 minutes of solid Bay Area style Thrash, inspired by the long gone days when bands like Exodus, Metallica and Forbidden didn't suck. 4 out of the 5 songs are original and written in Chilean and the last one is a greatly executed cover of Onslaught's "Fight with the Beast". Basically it sounds well done for debut demo music wise – these guys wrote some great, memorable riffs here and every one of them knows how to handle his instrument, but unfortunately the recording sounds blurry and most of the punch of this music is lost because of it. If you turn the tape loud and listen to the music carefully – it's clear that this band has a higher potential than most of nowadays LA retro-thrash bands and I hope that next time they record anything – the sound quality will fit the music more and it will sound as strong as it's intended to be. 7.5 / 10



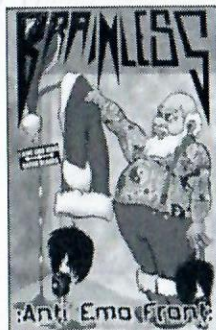
Dead to This World – First Strike of Spiritual Renewance (CD/LP, Dark Essence / Iron Pegasus, 2007)

Finally it got waxed, with a cover of master Moyer! So is there anything here that Black/Thrash lovers haven't heard yet? The answer is Yes! Most of the time the riffs are inspired by the ol' good Teutonic Thrash bands, but the guitar sounds somehow unique, although the sludge and rawness that can be found here in the correct proportions. While most of the time the music is fast and violent Thrash. More "dramatic" mid paced parts can be found here, but they sound decent and very strong. Another element that turns this album utterly aggressive is Iscariah voice, which reminds of Destroyer from Nocturnal Breed. The drummer did a great work and he doesn't play simple as fuck Punkish beats and knows how and when to play. Another strong side of this album in my opinion is the lyrics, that aren't so wise or profound, but still interesting and fit the mood of the music perfectly. In my opinion – there isn't even 1 weak song out of the 9 that can be found here, but my personal highlight is "1942", which features lyrics that actually make me shiver when I listen to this song. When all is said and done – it seems that Iscariah's decision to leave Immortal was a good one, since it created 1 of the better bands in Norway and an album that stands in the same line with "Black Thrash Attack" and "No Retreat... No Surrender". 10/10



Brainless (Ita) - Anti Emo Front (Demo Tape, Frozen Darkness, 2009)

For those who haven't read the previous issue – this band plays a mixture of Thrash/Hardcore in the oldschool vein and with lots of sick humor. After releasing the full length CD in 2008, they decided to unleash a demo tape, limited to 150 copies. So what has changed in their music and attitude since the album, except for nothing? Well, nothing! 5 out of the 6 songs here were previously released in the debut demo and album, 3 of them recorded live, 2 of which are short as Hell. These songs are fast as a shark, messy as a scrap yard, but full of sick humor that only brainless people might consider bad. These guys just do what they will and do it well! But what makes this tape worth getting if you already have the previous releases? The new song "Panda Division Mafia"! Love or hate BM – it's masterpiece and the ultimate mockery at those who took it too seriously! If you're not "open minded" enough to even have a good laugh (the lyrics of this song are pure truth if you think about them seriously for a moment, but they're still really funny!) – avoid this band and cut your veins! 8 / 10



Paganfire - Hate Vanishing Point (7", Iron Bonehead, 2008)



Paganfire is a Thrash band from the Philippines, which started to play at around 2004 and released 14 releases thus far, 13 are demos & splits, 1 is a full length (half of which is covers). This is their newest release, and though it's not bad, I'd say that it's useless, since if you own ANY other of their release – you've probably heard these songs, since it's the 8th time that "Hate Vanishing Point" is released and the 6th time for "Pagkakamali Ng Panahon" (wtf?...). Anyway... H.V.P. is a decent Thrash song, inspired by Ter.Cert. era Kreator, riffs and the vocals-wise. The 2nd song is instrumental, with a speech in the beginning, probably in their language. These guys know how to write nice Thrash songs that don't sound bad, but when all is said and done – this 7" is not really memorable and didn't leave me craving for more and I wouldn't say this release is a must. I really hope that the day when Paganfire will finally have a "new songs only" release will come soon and prove that

there's still something worth to expect from this band in the future! 6.5 / 10



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Nowadays it's known that Chris Black from Superchrist is the bass player and the vocalist of this band, since they shared the stage with the Swedish Enforcer on some dates during their US tour, but this is the first interview ever done with this band, before anyone had any idea who these Metallers are. Personally I'm not that satisfied with the answers either, but that's a start, and the music is the only thing that really matters, doesn't it?

Hi guys (or/and girls...)! Please introduce High Spirits as much as possible to the Best Evil readers!

Hi readers! First of all thank you for checking out High Spirits! We are a new band from Chicago playing high energy rock music! Or heavy metal if you prefer! Our influences are from both! The greatest music ever!!!

You've already released a cd-r demo, which proves again that a good demo is not necessarily a demo that's recorded with a boom box and released on a home-dubbed tape but one that features music that is worth listening to. Rumors have it that you're working on another one, hehe. So what are your future plans? Are you going to perform live as well?

Thank you for your nice words about the demo! Yes, we tried to make it sound as good as possible! We are still learning our equipment! Since we released the demo we are working on a lot of new songs! You can hear "High Spirits" and "I Need to Know" on our Myspace page now! We will release another CDR demo when there are enough new songs finished! Maybe then we will have enough for an album or concert! Right now we can't do concerts because we don't have enough songs! And we agreed to be strictly an originals band!!!

Talking about the demo - it's being spread by Chris Black's (Superchrist bass/vokillz & Pharaoh drummer) label Planet Metal. How did that cooperation start? Are you planning to release a full length album through this label as well in the future?

Planet Metal offered to receive and fulfill the orders for our demo! It is great to have this service done for us, so we can concentrate on making music! Usually a band needs to be signed before a company will help! So we are doing great!!! Of course we still do our own correspondence!

Recently many bands that play oldschool Metal (mainly Thrash) have been popping up out of nowhere, not many of which are really worthy in my opinion. LOADS keep writing the same repetitive lyrics about beer, Metal and Satan. It's not that I have something against it, but unfortunately - too few of them really have that feeling that turned bands like ManOwaR into such a special and great band. Your lyrics caught my attention, since they deal mostly with everyday-life issues, such as personal feelings like frustration (Torture and a bit Wings of Fire) and even LOVE (Night After Night). I'm really glad to discover also more intelligent lyrics combined with the music I like, so I'd like to ask you what are your main influences / inspirations when it comes to lyrics?

So much music nowadays is all aggression and negative energy! Well, this is ok! People can still enjoy it! But for our band, we are super-charged with the POWER of rock and heavy metal music! It shoots through us like lightning and gives us strength! So we want to send this positive power back to our audience!

Now give me a list of your 10 favorite Metal albums ever!

Everything! All of the hard rock and heavy metal music ever recorded! THE GREATEST MUSIC EVER!!!

Any additional words you'd like to disclose?

THANK YOU!!!

Thanks for you time! Good luck!

gWhile loads of shit keep floating on the surface of the nowadays big Thrash scene, I'm trying to find the bands that are still below the radar and most important - don't suck. Here is one of them - a young Thrash act that doesn't sound original or groundbreaking, but one can hear that they thrash form the heart and do it with passion. Read this interview and support them!

Hell O! How are you there, bangers? Please introduce Infernal Assault to the "masses"!

Oskar - we're good! Still writing newer material. Just doing our thing, you know...

Igor - Infernal Assault, its attitude and its lyrical themes are about war, death, torture and destruction.

We are not one of the happy Thrash bands that sing about eating pizza and drinking beer. I hate getting political, but we reflect the times we live in, and they are not happy.

Chris aka (Shabooba) -Doing good, just drinking a couple of beers and listening to some music.

I suppose that the band's title is inspired by Nuclear Assault, isn't it? What are your main influences?

Oskar - That's a common misconception. Actually the name came from my sister. Back when I decided to start a band she pitched me that name and it just stuck. As for influences, I can't really say we all have the same sound. We agree to try to reach, but it's the fact we have different influences, but I can't honestly specify everyone's influences

Chris (Shabooba) -My main influences is classic rock, new wave of British Heavy Metal and classic Thrash, Speed metal...

Igor - we are basically a collection of influences from Death Metal to Speed Metal to Crossover and Punk, all of us have slightly different influences which makes us a little different than most local bands in the Los Angeles scene. I personally grew up listening to epic Heavy Metal (Manowar and such) and classic Speed Metal, such as old Metallica, Megadeth, Kreator and old Slayer.

Please tell a bit more about the Thrash scene as it is now in the US. I heard about many bands, but didn't like many of them either personally. Can you please introduce some young comrades that are worth being listened to?

Oskar - Well, the Thrash scene in L.A is pretty big, but I find it very over crowded with bands that have a similar sound. I'm not saying bands all sound the same either; rather they tend to release a similar style, but not all bands. I can't really specify too many that I personally like.

Chris (Shabooba) - The bands that are worth listening to, which are also our friends: Grim Death, Arsenal and Sakrificer

And how many people usually come to an average Thrash gig in your area and to your gigs in particular? How often do you perform live and which bands have you shared the stage with so far?

Oskar - Well, in clubs - the shows really are too mixed with random Metal-genres and overpriced ticket sales, since many people don't want to go out of the way or pay for the ticket. It doesn't provide much of a Metal crowd, but we often play backyard shows, which depending if its strictly Thrash Metal get a decent crowd. We have yet to play with larger bands. We did have a show with Axehammer, but they didn't show up.

Igor - Last year we had a gig where about 300 people showed up (Stoner fest 2), that was probably our largest crowd so far.

Chris (Shabooba) - Stoner fest 2 was definitely our biggest show so far.

You recorded a couple of demos and spread them on CD-r as far as I know. How and where were they recorded? Why didn't you release them on tape, if I may ask? ;-)

Oskar - The demo was recorded around the beginning of this year, by a good friend of the band. The recording was surprisingly better then we expected and was done track by track. They were not released on tape simply for the reason that no one in Los Angeles uses cassette players. If asked, it could be possible.

How many copies have you spread so far and how were the responses? Have you sent any promo copies to any labels?

Oskar - We have sent 5-8 copies of our demo overseas to people who asked for one, but none have been sent to any labels.

Igor - I just want to note that we are not trying to get into a label as soon as possible. If it comes it comes, but meanwhile - we are planning to record a self produced full length album, which is going to be free online or from us.

Chris (Shabooba) - Around our local area, we've lost count about how many demos we gave to our local Metalheads.

I'd say we gave away around 30 to 40 demos.

I've read that there is a very high rate of weed smokers in the Metal scene in the US these days. What's your opinion about it? Shouldn't we leave it for rappers, hehe? What's your personal favorite kind of poison?

Oskar - Well, we don't really care much for promoting marijuana, but it's really whatever to us. If there is anything we all agree on - it's drinking some beer!

Chris (Shabooba) - There's nothing wrong getting high and listening to some good Metal. My favorite types of poison would be weed and alcohol..

Igor - Leave it for the Negros!!! HAHAHA!!

Just curious (no offense) - are there still any non-Mexican people left in LA, and in the nowadays Thrash scene in particular?

Oskar - Yes, not as much in Los Angeles, as it is pre dominantly Hispanic.

Igor, our vocalist, is Russian and we know some good friends who are not Hispanic.

Now it's time to give me a list of your favorite 10 Metal albums!

Oskar - 10 Metal albums? Hmmm I can't say albums. I mean - there're good ones, but I don't know... Good question!

Chris (Shabooba) - My top 10 Metal albums are:

Cannibal Corpse-Eaten back to life / Metallica-kill em all / Megadeth-killing is my business and bussiness is good / Accuser-The Conviction / Venom-Black Metal / Tigers of Pan Tang -Wild Cat / Slayer-Show No Mercy / Exumer-Possessed By Fire / Sepultura-Schizophrenia / Black Sabbath-Masters Of Reality.

Igor - Killing is my business, Hell awaits, Justice for all, Kill 'em all, Korrozia Metalla - orden satanei (Russian band), Keeper of the seven keys, Beneath the remains, Show no mercy, Black metal, Endless pain.

Fuck yeah, Korrozia ruled before they turned a bunch of gay Nazis! Any last words you'd like to tell me, to the readers, or maybe also to the posers?

Oskar - The music we write is Thrash Metal, but it dents strictly have to be Metal influenced to sound good. I often write riffs or songs in the style I'm digging at the moment, which has been currently not Metal related at all, so just have fun writing the music!

Chris (Shabooba) - Sergei, thanks for interviewing us! Also thanks to the readers that read our interview, cheers to all of you! Hope you enjoyed it!! As for the posers...They can fuck off and die!

Igor - Thanks Sergei and much respect to IsraHell Thrashers. Cheers!

Thrash 'till death!

Contact: www.myspace.com/infernalassault666

An EVIL'S BEST issue without an interview with any band that praises Hellhammer as if there is no tomorrow, could it be possible? No fuckin' way! Especially not in such a year as 2009, exactly 25 years after "Apocalyptic Raids" EP's release! In other words - it's about time for an interview with the most Hellhammer-obsessed band on Earth, which is ov korpse the German WAHAMMER! So in case that the upcoming Hellhammer book wioll suck, here is your chance to read an interview with someone who still keeps the Hellhammer flame burning to this day, Volker "Iron Lung" Frerich, the revelator of doom!

Hi Volker! What's going on there in Germany nowadays? What are you going to listen to on the background, while answering the same annoying and repetitive questions you've been asked about many times in the past already? (Hellhammer - Satanic Rites here now!)

Right now, LORD VICAR - "Fear no Pain" is playing on my stereo. It's basically the only record I listen to at the moment, at least here at home. In the car I listen to old Hardcore stuff from the 80's, like KILLING TIME or JUDGE. I don't like too many records that come out nowadays...

Ok... So what's going on with Warhammer these days? I've seen some flyers of your upcoming gigs with great bands like Children of Technology recently. Do you perform live a lot nowadays? Are there any plans for a German or European tour to support the new album?

Well, things are going well for us these days. It is / was a good concert year, with the Finland tour in April / May and in December we will be in Italy again for the third time and also play a festival in the Netherlands. And with the first new album since many years, I'm happy with the way things are right now!

Glad to hear that! Talking about your new album "No Beast So Fierce", which you've just released - who wrote the music and who wrote the lyrics for that one?

The music was written by our bass player Christoph, who can (of course) also play guitar. The track "TOTAL MANIAC", which is up on our My Space, was written by me. I wrote all the lyrics this time.

Yeah, it would be weird if all the music was written by a bass player who doesn't know how to play a guitar, haha! By the way, I was really surprised to see that the older the band gets - the younger members join it. How is it to work with guys who are twice younger than you and Rolf (the drummer)?

To me it's the perfect combination! Young blood and old wisdom, hahaha...No, honestly, it works just great. Our younger guys are more connected to the new metal crowd than I am.

I've noticed that the situation is similar in the Apokalyptic Raids camp as well, hehe. By the way - what's your opinion about this (in my opinion - killer!) Brazilian band?

I like the album "THE THIRD STORM" a lot, their older stuff was mediocre to me...

Is there any chance you see you sharing a split? I think it would be fuckin' great!

Honestly never thought about that...

Great that I gave you this idea then! Talking about AR - in an interview I did with Leon - he told me that it took him more than a decade to make his plans come true and create the thing that is Apokalyptic Raids. I've read in some Russian interview that you've taken part in some obscure Speed Metal band called "Rest in Peace" already in the 80's. Did you want it to be Hellhammer-inspired already back then? Why was it split and are there any chances to see it reissued?

REST IN PEACE was classical German Speed Metal, it had nothing to do with HELLHAMMER at all. I'm trying to find our Demo Tape these days, but so far it seems that it may be lost. If I find it again, I will transfer it to CD and make some copies for people, who are interested in hearing it.

That would be nice, count me in! You've always had killer bands in Germany and still have also such killer newer bands like Nocturnal, Old, Hellish Crossfire and more. What could you say about the local scene nowadays vs. in the 80's, from the point of view of shows, unity of the bands and bangers in general etc?

I don't care about many new bands, most of them bore me to death. And I'm fed up with "Old School Thrash Metal", because every second band plays that style right now. What I can see right now, is band members becoming arrogant in a stage, where they just have a Demo CD out and they already act like rock stars. I can't understand such "mentality" at all. In the 80s the people were also more open-minded and tolerant than today's crowd. You can read up on my thoughts about such behaviour in the lyrics to TOTAL MANIAC, 2nd verse...

Yes, I saw it. Talking about your lyrics, I've often noticed that some songs are just re-done Hellhammer songs. There are of course more original ones, like "The Conqueror Worm" in the previous album and "The Tunguska Riddle" in NBSF of course, but in "No Beast So Fierce", in songs like "Warriors of the Cross" and "Total Maniac" you even used titles of older works of Warhammer as parts of the lyrics. How important are the lyrics in an album in general for you? How long does it usually take you to write (or re-write) a song?

The lyrics are very important to me! "THE CONQUEROR WORM" is based on the movie THE WITCHFINDER GENERAL, like you said, and in the United States it was released under the "CONQUEROR..."-title. I liked the sound of the words and the fact, that this specific title is not so well-known, so I named the song this way. And I just love the movie! The new album has a lot of references to both HELLHAMMER and WARHAMMER. The reason behind this has to do with the fact that this is our 1st new album since 2002 and I wanted to point out that my love for HELLHAMMER and my own band is still as strong as before the break-up in 2002, maybe even stronger. The time it takes for me to write the lyrics for 1 song differs extremely. IMPOSTERS FOR ALL TIMES took me about 10 minutes, and I still love the lyrics. But sometimes it takes me hours to find one single word that fits perfectly...

By the way, have you heard my Hellhammer-inspired (well not as much as Warhammer, hehe) project HELLEMENTOR?

It sounds a bit strange, with bizarre vocals, but interesting and unusual!

Hahaha, thanks! Before I go as far as the times before you discovered Metal or were even born, let's go back to the new album's topic, haha! Personally I was a bit surprised to see such a bizarre artwork. The previous albums' artworks weren't as simplistic as this one. Who drew it and are you satisfied with it?

Well, the idea obviously was to go back to our first album or the HELLHAMMER-record. I think that the cover artwork for THE DOOM MESSIAH was a good drawing, but too far away from HELLHAMMER, and Nuclear Blast fucked up the artwork for CURSE OF THE ABSOLUTE ECLIPSE, when they put the drawing through the computer. You can hardly notice the exploding Earth anymore, the way it looks now! Helena Hoffmann from Munich did NO BEAST SO FIERCE... And, yeah, I like it a lot!

Well, there's another question I felt compelled to ask concerning this sick artwork. Is it only my fucked up imagination, or could it be that the gas-mask on the "crucified death" (well it's not SITTING death, is it?) inspired by the "bestial-war-vomit-goat-gas-mask-black-death-metal" stuff like Blasphemy and the likes?

The gas mask was Helena's idea. I don't know if she's into BLASPHEMY or their artworks, but I doubt about it.

Do you know what Christoph's main inspiration was during the process of writing these songs? (If only Hellhammer, so at least be more exact, hahaha!)

Well, this is what Christoph told me: "There wasn't any purposed or focused inspiration. I usually orientated myself on old WARHAMMER songs. Together with the feeling of how to play such kind of songs that I obtained during the years with WARHAMMER, there was an unconscious source of inspiration, which I didn't calculate or made thoughts about in the time before starting to write..."

As far as I know - Florian/Thrash Attack zine/Dying Victims prods. is going to make the tape version. Who'll be responsible for the vinyl? Will all of them feature the same artwork?

HIGH ROLLER RECORDS from Germany is putting out the Vinyl, with a Bonus 7" EP, containing 3 cover-versions. Yes, the same artwork will be used for these 2 releases as well.

Could you please spill more light on the covers that are on the 7"?

Well, on the A-side will be "SPHINX" by the German band POISON. I won't reveal the 2 songs on the B-side yet, just wait and see (or hear)...

Killer!!! I definitely will hear it! By the way, in recent years Warhammer's materials got reissued on CD format through the Polish METAL MIND label and on tape (dunno who did it). Are all these official and approved releases? Was only the debut bootlegged?

I think METAL MIND got authorization from Nuclear Blast, but I'm not sure. The tapes that came out are official and with our approval. The bootleg from Chile of THE WINTER OF OUR DISCONTENT is the only "real" bootleg I know of.

Talking about bootlegs - they've played a very important role in the destiny of Hellhammer. Have you been collecting them during the years, or do you still stick to the old original demos or dubs?

To be honest, I don't listen much to HELLHAMMER anymore, because of the millions of hours that we tried to search for the right guitar sound etc. in the various studios. I've ruined it for me personally, so to speak. And the various releases, bootlegs, whatever, never bothered me much...

Now you really surprised me! And still, what's your opinion about Demon Entrails?

Looks beautiful, with many cool pics. The sound though is not spectacularly different than it always sounded.

Soon the Hellhammer book is going to be released as well. What are your expectations and what do you think about Fischer's views on this project, that seem to change only when he notices that there's probably more interest in this band than in 90% of CF stuff and it could bring easy cash?

Yeah, he denied it for ages, and now it's okay. Maybe it's for money reasons, but, to be honest, I don't care!

And have you ever got any feedback from Warrior or from Ain? If yes, what do they think about Warhammer?

I have read what Tom said about us in TERRORIZER-mag. Well, everybody's entitled to their own opinion, so I have my own thoughts about WARHAMMER - and he has different ones...

Is there any chance to see "The Winter of Our Discontent" released on vinyl again? And will the LIVE MASSACRE dvd be reprinted? In general - what Warhammer releases/merch are available nowadays from the band or other official and honest distributors?

I hate THE WINTER OF OUR DISCONTENT, so I won't put any effort in a re-release. The LIVE MASSACRE-DVD was supposed to be re-released by LARGACTYL RECORDS, but they have broken up contact with us, so I don't know what's going on with those guys... Nuclear Blast made Digipack-Re-Releases of DEATHCHRIST, THE DOOM MESSIAH and CURSE OF THE ABSOLUTE ECLIPSE.

What is that you hate about „The Winter“ so much?

Well, first of all, the production / sound. The guitar sounds like shit and the bass is just too much / too loud. And I'm unhappy with my part on this album: you can't try to sound like Tom Warrior and not make one single "Uh", scream or anything in that direction. Haven't you noticed: the only thing you hear from me are the lyrics, nothing else. And the beginning of DEVASTATION OF SILENT RESISTANCE would be perfect for everything, screams, howls, etc. Now it's totally boring as hell, because it feels like years, till my vocals set in...

Talking about the DVD - I must admit I was expecting it to be way more interesting, to see more interaction with the crowd, more crowd (!) and at least some Thrashers going really wild and not just a bunch of them banging their heads near the stage form time to time. Does it happen often that the crowd is so calm and harmless during gigs in your area?

Well, I think I can explain that, because you're right. The whole STEEL MEETS STEEL-festival, where the DVD was shot, had very few visitors. And it was structured in a way that 2 bands played at the same time, on 2 different stages. And we played simultaneously with VORTEX from the Netherlands. And VORTEX played this festival the year before, and the organisers made an election like: "Which band do you want to see again in 2007?". VORTEX won this election. The stage where they played was much smaller than ours was. I heard there were approx. 50 or 60 people watching VORTEX. Like I said, the festival was not well frequented. We played in the big hall in front of a small audience, because, after all, more people wanted to see VORTEX that night.

Now back to the past, if you don't mind. As far as I'm concerned - you weren't that satisfied with the earlier works of Warhammer, since you claimed that it didn't sound similar enough to Hellhammer (I disagree!). How do you record your songs nowadays and what's your personal favorite Warhammer release so far?

Like I said earlier, I can't stand THE WINTER OF OUR DISCONTENT. From our old albums, I like THE DOOM MESSIAH the most. But my new favourite is the actual one NO BEAST SO FIERCE... And the people know that I was never the one to say that about every WARHAMMER-album when it came out! I think the guitar sound is just insane this time, we never had a better and more brutal sounding guitar! And Christoph wrote fantastic riffs! We did something new with the trilogy that ends the album, but basically no HELLHAMMER / WARHAMMER-fan will be disappointed.

Now - 2 inevitable questions! What actually happened between you and Frank "Necros II" Krynojewski?

Well, I won't talk about that. We were friends for a long time - now we're not. Everything, that happened back then, concerned only the band members, so it's not in my interest to share it with any interview readers.

The 2nd question is about your cooperation with Nuclear Blast. How did you manage to reach such a summit as this huge label? Did they show much support back when Warhammer was signed with them?

We would have NEVER played WACKEN two times back then without Nuclear Blast, I think. And some other good things were also possible with their cooperation. We were first on Grind Syndicate Media, which are distributed by Blast, and then the next logical step was to try it on Blast itself. We decided to do the new one ourselves, because now we own a lot of CDs that belong to the band and I can sell my own stuff at concerts. The big labels give you 50 copies, they are sold very quickly and then you have to buy your own CDs, and this time I wanted to do it another way.

And as someone who has experienced both the D.I.Y. and the label-supported way, which in your opinion is better for the band, especially today, that CD's hardly sell?

It both has arguments for and against. The main reason for the decision to try it ourselves was the fact that any label would give us about 50 CDs or so, and then you have no more to sell at your own concerts. But as far as the distribution goes, a label can be the better choice. Of course, only if they get their ass up and really try to support the band, which is not always the case, as I've heard over the years. Anyway, we try it ourselves this time and see where it will lead us. And it's too early now to say whether it was a good or a bad choice.

I've always wondered what attracted other people to Hellhammer so much. Personally in my case it was the raw and ugly atmos-fear and monster-like sounding overdriven bass sound of "Death Fiend" and "Triumph of death" demos. What made this band so outstanding for you?

They were very different than all other bands. Their limited musical quality gave room for extremity, darkness, brutality and rawness. I am proud to create similar music, and although I could picture myself doing other Metal stuff, WARHAMMER will remain the most important thing I have ever achieved musically.

So are there any chances to see you taking part in any different band in the near future?

I'm planning something at the moment, but it's way too early to tell anything concrete, just an interesting idea that crossed my mind. But I'm not sure if it's gonna be a "band"...

Well, now probably the toughest question - what's your favorite Hellhammer song EVER?!

No, that's an easy question for me: THE THIRD OF THE STORMS (EVOKED DAMNATION), the version from APOCALYPTIC RAIDS.

No it's gonna get only easier... Favorite 10 albums ever?

Here are my 20 favourite Metal releases, if that's okay for you, in an alphabetical order:

BATHORY - same
CARNIVORE - same
EXCITER - "Heavy Metal Maniac"
HELLHAMMER - "Apocalyptic Raids"
IRON MAIDEN - same, "Killers"
IRON MAN - "Generation Void"
LIVING DEATH - "Vengeance of Hell"
MANILLA ROAD - "Crystal Logic"
MERCYFUL FATE - "Don't break the Oath"
METAL CHURCH - same,
MOTORHEAD - "Beerdrinkers"
NASTY SAVAGE - same
OMEN - "Battle Cry"
RUNNING WILD - "Gates to Purgatory", "Black Hand Inn"
SAVAGE DEATH "Mass Genocide" -Demo,
THE LORD WEIRD SLOUGH FEG - "Traveller"
TWISTED SISTER - "Under the Blade"
WHIPLASH - "Power and Pain".

Well, I'm out of questions! Any last words, beside "Only Death Is Real"?

Every WARHAMMER-fan, who feels awkward towards us putting out a new album: give it a try at least and then decide for yourself. Anyone's opinion, who dislikes it after listening to it, will be respected. But check it out at least, I'm sure, most of you motherfuckas will love it!! Thanxx to you, Sergei, for this interview!!

Contact: www.myspace.com/warhammerdeathmetal

I've been a fan on this band since years, and now that they have a new LP out – it's about time to have a long chat with their axe player Daniel "Evil Avenger", about Nocturnal, his label "Deathstrike", his countless other side-projects etc. Let me introduce one of the most creative Metalheads in Germany!

Hell o mighty Evil Avenger! How are you these days? Which projects have you been busy doing lately and what are you going to listen to while answering these questions?

I'm fine! A bit busy, since we have some issues with our rehearsal room and needed to find a new one. But things are set now and all is fine. We also just played 3 shows the last 2 weeks, which all went well. But O feel a bit of a hangover still, hehe. I'm currently listening to some birds outside of the window.... I'm answering this one at work, you must know....

At work? HAHA! Well, let's go to the beginning! How did everything start? How and when did you get exposed to Metal, and to teutoniK Thrash in particular? Which bands inspired you to start playing?

I think it was around the age of 13 or 14 when I first had contact with Heavy Metal. My father already listened to lots of Blues or stuff like Steppenwolf, Scorpions and so on, even some AC/DC.... Then I got a library license, and among some comic books I lent from there, I once took a cassette of IRON MAIDEN's Fear of the Dark to my home. The haunting cover made me do it. It took me a while to get into the music honestly, but when I and a friend broke into the clubhouse of some older guys (who already were wearing vests with patches and so on), we stole some of their tapes with stuff like ACCEPT, TANKARD and more IRON MAIDEN on it. Those older guys left Metal when they started employing for jobs and so on... Somehow I still think it is because we stole their tapes, ha ha.

When I got into middle school, I met a guy, who later called himself "Infernal Overkiller", when we both formed BESTIAL DESECRATION. We went into the same class and he was already pretty much into SEPULTURA, OBITUARY and this kind of heavier stuff. I first had contact with real Thrash when I got a tape with DESTRUCTION's Infernal Overkill on one side and LIVING DEATH's Metal Revolution on the other. The guy who gave it to me later got me into BEHERIT too. That tape didn't leave my walkman for months. Since my father also plays guitar, I always had access to guitars, and he finally gave me his old electric one. I got the songbooks (books with tabs and notes, there were printed books with those before the internet) of SLAYER's Reign in blood and METALLICA's Kill 'em all. Those 2 were the best teachers someone can have when trying to play Thrash Metal... But I didn't pick up the guitar until I was 16 years old, I played drums before, but see the next question....

Talking about Bestial Desecration, it was formed somewhere in 1997, right? I have the Thrashing Rage split tape and gotta say that the musical direction doesn't differ from Nocturnal... Why did BD split and did you start Nocturnal yourself or have you joined it later?

That's partly true. First of all, I had a solo project called DEATH CARNATION. I recorded one demo in 1997 and never did anything again with it. Then, we had a band called INTOXICATION, which was some kind of Death/Thrash/Grind stuff from what I can recall from the 2 songs we had. I played drums in that band, Infernal Overkiller played guitar and did vocals and we had 2 guys playing bass. We only had like 2 rehearsals and then split up.

This was some very amateurish stuff, of course. Me and Overkiller were totally into DESTRUCTION back then in 1997 and started BESTIAL DESECRATION, because we wanted to have a band which sounds like them. In 1998 we released our first demo, which I recorded with only one guitar track, a keyboard as drums and Overkiller did the vocals. The 2nd demo was recorded the same primitive way... In 1998 we got a rehearsal room and a full line up with Bestial Aggressor on drums (who is Overkiller's brother) and Pork on bass. We did some live shows and released a 7" in early 2000. Bestial Aggressor and Pork both left the band after the 7" recordings, because they never really wanted to do music at the first place. We forced them to do so, hehe. Anyway, we tried to keep the band alive with Balor (Morrigan/Blizzard) on drums and another friend of ours on bass (now has a project called TEPHERET), but Balor left again, because he had too much other things going on, and me and Overkiller had some personal problems, so we decided to split up the band... Or better to say - I went on under the name NOCTURNAL with the same vision to play old school Thrash Metal...

I was alone at first, did the Rites of the black mass Demo this way and teamed up with Skull Crusher for the Slaughter Command 7", until I found Hellbastard and Mayhem to form the first real NOCTURNAL line up in early 2001.

As far as I'm concerned - the members of Nocturnal live far away from one another, right? How does the process of creation (of the possessed, hehe) of music in Nocturnal go? Who writes the music and the lyrics and how often do you rehearse?

Well, things have just recently changed a bit with Tyrannizer coming in the band and Vomitor moving, I just mentioned we got a new rehearsal room too.

For the last 9 years, we all had about 80-100km to our rehearsal room, which was at the village where Hellbastard (and Mayhem) lives... But now, for me it's only 35km and Hellbastard has the 100km, haha. Anyway, we rehearsed only about twice a month on the weekends for about 3 hours. We were limited rehearsing on the weekends, because there is some kind of kindergarten in the front of the building of our old rehearsal room.

When there were gigs we want to attend, or have personal things to do, we sometimes didn't rehearse for months. That's one of the main reasons why there is a 5 years gap between the first and the 2nd albums. We hope to rehearse more now during the week and be a bit more productive...

Usually, when it comes to writing songs, I come up with the riffs and a basic idea how they are arranged. I work it out together with Hellbastard and show it to the others. I have done most of our lyrics in the past, but Tyrannizer already did 3 lyrics for Violent Revenge and I think she will do more in the future...

Lucky kids! I wish I could hear such music near my kindergarten when I was at their age! During the close to a decade of Nocturnal's existence, apart from one guitar player, only the vocalists have changed. Why did Mayhem leave, what caused Reaper from Old leave so fast and how come that Tyrannizer came so soon after? Is she a permanent vocalist now? Did she actually move from the UK to Germany because of Nocturnal?

With NOCTURNAL we had a little break between 2005-2006, because I became a father and had to concentrate more on my family, so we didn't rehearse much and didn't play any live gigs. During that time, Mayhem joined WITCHBURNER as vocalist and was very involved with them. In 2007 we did more rehearsals again and wanted to get prepared for live gigs. Then we had some problems with the schedules of NOCTURNAL and WITCHBURNER, which lead me to ask Mayhem to decide for one band before serious problems will occur. You must know the distance between him and WITCHBURNER is more than 200km and in my opinion he isn't the guy who can handle 2 bands at the same time. We were looking for a new vocalist with not much luck, so Reaper offered himself as a session vocalist for the planned gigs in early 2008. Since OLD were more or less dead at the time, things were working out great for NOCTURNAL and we asked him to become a full member, which he agreed on. But OLD re-arranged their line up (with Vomitor on bass) and became active again, which lead Reaper to leave NOCTURNAL again. He has a fulltime job, a house to take care of and recently became a father too (not to forget the 200km distance between him and our rehearsal room), so he knew this wouldn't work out in the end.... I can't blame him for anything, he was always fair to us and helped us out when we needed him. With Tyrannizer we had finally some luck, she is originally from northern Germany and studied in London for 4 (I think) years and came back to Germany in our area to continue studies, just around the time we were looking for a new vocalist again. She is a permanent member now, I'm positive the nowadays line up will last for long....

Congratulations about you turning a father! You have loads of 7" and tape splits released with different bands. Which one is your favorite and what's the ultimate band you'd like to share a release with? I can't really name a favourite... I like them all for the time they were released. A special thing for me was the split 7" with NUNSLAUGHTER, where I regret we used such poor recordings of our songs. And I regret it didn't come out before the "Arrival...." album as it was planned. Some realistic split partners I would like to do something with are MINOTAUR, WITCHTRAP and HELLISH CROSSFIRE, to name a few....

The song "Slaughter Command" was originally released many years ago on 7", even before the debut album was unleashed. Why did you include it in the 2nd LP and not the 1st? Are there any plans to feature more tracks from the old vaults in future LP's?

Well, since the Slaughter Command 7" was released I always wanted to redo it with a full line up! With the first album we preferred to bring out new material...

As most people nowadays probably haven't heard the 7", I thought it's the right time to re-record that fucker... I think it fits perfectly into the other songs. No plans in re-recording old songs for the next album. But the other members want to play Rites of the Black Mass from the demo tape at least live... Maybe we'll re-record it for a 7" release or something... Haven't talked about this in detail yet....

How have you got signed to Displeased records? Are you satisfied with how they distribute your albums? Haven't you ever considered to release Nocturnal's albums exclusively through your own label Deathstrike and have everything under full control, or do you prefer to free more time and leave the distribution's headache for another label?

I was in contact with Roman from Displeased / From Beyond through trading DEATHSTRIKE releases with their releases, and I told him we're looking for a label to release our debut album. He was interested, and after sending him some rehearsals of new songs, he offered us a deal! The contract was for 2 albums, so we're currently free from any label. The deal with Displeased could have been better, but far worse as well... We are satisfied with their work and they always kept what they did promise. So nothing to complain here. Yes, I considered to do the album with DEATHSTRIKE when we were looking for a label, but I didn't have the money to pay the studio and production costs back then (Still don't have the money today, hehe), not to speak of the contacts to the more professional distributors, which Displeased definitely had. Headache is exactly the right word I would use for the distribution of a full length album. You need to promote it somehow, it's a difference to release a 7" limited to 500 copies or a full length album.

By the way, how did the cooperation with the mighty artist Kris Vierwimp occur? The cover he did for "Arrival of the Carnivore" is one of his best in my opinion!

We contacted him for details how to work with him and it actually went quite well. We had no real idea what we wanted... I told him something like "A goat, and skulls...." and showed him some of my favourite works of his, and he came up with what you see on the cover now.... Many people have told me that our album cover is his best work... So there must be some truth to it. When we played with Gospel of the Horns just 2 weeks ago, Ryan Marauder told me he actually knows 2 guys in Australia who have the artwork tattooed, one of them being a close friend of his... He promised to show me pics.... Hurry up man; I want to see this, haha.

Well, I'm not even surprised! Killer drawing indeed... What's your opinion about the explosion of comebacks that started in the early 90's, when once great Thrash bands decided to come back and release more (mostly bad in my opinion) albums? Do you still follow the albums that bands like Kreator, Assassin or Sodom release? How was it to open for Sabbath (UK) by the way?

No, I don't follow their new albums anymore. Well, KREATOR, SODOM and TANKARD were always there, but that doesn't mean their new albums are any good. Even if they are some good songs here and there, I think there are way better recordings out there in the underground done by real maniacs. Honestly I don't care much for UK SABBAT, it was a lot better to open for the Japanese one, he! I was quite expecting something from ONSLAUGHT which we played with the same night, but it sucked. Another useless comeback for sure.... AT WAR were cool though....

And what about the nowadays Thrash trend? How does it feel to hear from young bands that Nocturnal is one of their main influences, together with bands like old Metallica, Kreator, Exodus and the likes? It's a bit strange to see all those younger guys into Thrash Metal. I'm by no means an old guy, but about 10 years older than the guys in WITCHING HOUR, DEATHHAMMER or KETZER for example. Of course it's great to see they are keeping Thrash Metal alive and healthy. You could not reinvent the wheel with playing that music already when we started with BESTIAL DESECRATION, so it's the feeling and the attitude that matters today. It's an honor for me when someone tells me NOCTURNAL influenced them to play this music. This surprisingly happened a lot when talking with the younger bands we played with the last few years.... I remember when we were not taken seriously by anyone really when we started, it was until I would say 2006 when things have changed in that matter. The album was out for some time and we started doing gigs again, that's when people actually came to the shows because they wanted to see us and not the other bands we played with, he.

And what are the future plans in the Nocturnal camp, now that the 2nd attack is out? Do you already have any plans for upcoming releases? Do you think it will take less time until the next full length is out than the period between "Arrival..." and "Violent Revenge"?

There is a split 10" release with URN planned, but it's currently not sure if that will happen, since URN are probably split up in the meantime, from what Vomitor told me. Anyway, we plan to record a new song, a cover song and use a live recording for our side. This will be released maybe on a 7" if the split plan is falling through.... Then we'll finally do the long planned "Tormentor" 7"EP with many different versions of our Tormentor song.... After those, we're trying to write material for the next full length album. We try not to take so long like last time to come up with a new album, but when things are that way and we need the time, we will take it. No hurry to rush some songs just to stop the constant asking for a new album.

Now let's move to your other musical projects! I know that there are MANY of them, personally I know about Front Beast (Black Metal), Angel of Damnation (Doom?), Exorcism (Death Metal), Terrorazor (Death/Grindcore), H418ov21.C. (Ambient or something like that), Szarlem (Black Metal), Black Priest of Satan (Black Metal) and I bet you have/had even more, didn't you? How the fuck do you succeed to share the time between them?

The ones you listed are the still active ones. There were a few more, for example DEATH CARNATION, WITCHSLAUGHTER / NECROSLAUGHTER, PHANTOM and POLTERGEIST, but I stopped them for one reason or another.... PHANTOM was a one time thing from the start, recorded something in 2006 which I just released on a 7". POLTERGEIST was roughly what later turned into TERRORAZOR, doing only one demo in 2003. One still active and very important thing you didn't mention is VARGHKOGHARGASMAL, which is Metal in its essence, but played without distortion, and most of the time without vocals. Well, I don't release too much with most of them, so it's actually not that much time I spend on every musical project. I do write songs in my head or spontaneously after I recorded drum tracks, so I don't really need to rehearse the songs like a normal band does. Only EXORCISM and ANGEL OF DAMNATION are bands with full line ups, but we rarely rehearse and record something because of the time schedule of myself and the other members, who are involved in other bands too. I don't want to limit myself to one style of music only, I have so much ideas and I don't want to put them into one or two bands only. You can't mix SZARLEM with NOCTURNAL riffs, if you know what I mean. I want to keep the music pure and not washed up by mixing things which shouldn't be mixed together....

Yeah, I agree that it's better to avoid useless mixtures! And what other musical genres are you into, except for Metal?

Not that much really! I can more or less listen to all kinds of music without puking (except rap/hip hop stuff), but the real kick I get from Heavy Metal only. I do like many 70's or oldies songs, some classical, some noise/electronic/ambient/experimental in small doses. I like stuff like BAD RELIGION, NOFX and so on too, as well as German and UK punk....

As far as I understand, Front Beast is your 2nd priority project, isn't it? How come you have so many mini-releases (mainly 7") released under the banner of FB? Did you get suggestions from the labels to get your stuff released, or the opposite?

Yes, 2nd priority more or less. Depends on my mood, haha. First of all, it is my way of working to do short recording sessions, short but intense. I think many full length albums released by bands would have worked better as EP's if they left off the "forced" tracks, if you know what I mean. I get none to zero offers to release FRONT BEAST material on vinyl, hehe. Hell's Headbangers and Undercover Records (who will release the next MCD/MLP) are a welcome exception. Most of the FB Vinyl I did release myself, because I hate waiting for other labels to get their asses off. I love 7" releases and therefore I will continue to release them, if people like that or not I don't care. I don't go around and ask labels to release my stuff, I did that a few times in the past and felt like some homeless begging for food. DIY is the way....

HAHA! Interesting way of thinking! Anyway, musically - FB sounds to me as a combination of Burzum and Destruction. I know that you're a big fan of Destruction and it can be noticed easily from Nocturnal's riffs as well. Did that project start because you had riffs that didn't really fit Nocturnal?

Yes, that's exactly how FB came into form. It wasn't NOCTURNAL but BESTIAL DESECRATION where I had riffs which didn't really fit to my main band. DESTRUCTION is my main influence, Mike's guitar work isn't from this world. Of course there are technically better ones, but no Yngwie Malmsteen ever came close to write riffs like on Eternal Devastation. I try to put the DESTRUCTION like riffs into NOCTURNAL, but somehow I agree it shines through in some FB songs as well, especially on the "Black Spells..." album.

You have a split with Agathocles, but you also covered Grand Belial's Key's song. How come?

Well, it might be strange to some, but not for me. When the AG Split 7" came out, it was an idea between Jan and me, since he is much into old SODOM and HELLHAMMER. He even admitted stealing CELTIC FROST Riffs in AG songs in the past. Anyway, I didn't think much about their political side when we did this, it was a kind of "fuck you" release for most people being close minded and too focused on one side of the track. I agree with many points in AG's lyrics (Animal rights, Racism, Drug Abuse, Sexism etc.), but others I don't (Anarchism). As for GBK, I don't see them as a right winged band. Of course I know the members are racists, but I don't care what they up to in their private lives. I even read an ARGHOSLENT Interview somewhere, where they stated they are voting for Obama, since he is the better option for America than the "white trash" alternative on the other side.

HA! That's really hilarious (the statement about Obama)!!! By the way, did you know that Shemhamphorash is the name of God in Hebrew, which consists of 72 letters, known only to the main Jewish Rabbi, who is allowed to pronounce it once a year? I checked the lyrics of that song GBK did, and it seems that they didn't really know what word they used there, haha!
No, I didn't know that.

Did the fact that you play such kind of Black Metal get any NSBM (National Satanic Bullshit Music) fans confused? Have you ever got a suggestion to share a split with a band like Nargaroth?

Yes, by the time I released the Victims of death demo, which sounded probably the most like BURZUM from all my releases, I got offers to compilation releases with NS bands and so on, which I declined. But not really a split release with a NS band. I don't see a band like GBK as NS band at all, especially their older stuff. I mean for me there is a difference in mocking Jews (which is the same as mocking Christians to me) and praising the 3rd Reich and National Socialism. As long as a band doesn't do exactly that (like DER STÜRMER for example) I don't care what the members said in interviews or how their personal beliefs are, as long as the music doesn't get affected too much from it. Speaking of NARGAROTH, this is just a joke which still keeps going..... No idea why....

And how did that NS retards react to your split with Agathocles?

At the time that split 7" got released, I got quite some "Why the fuck you share a split with a leftist grindcore band?" kind of letters and mails, but nothing serious at all.

The Szarlem's album's music doesn't differ much from FB in style in my opinion, apart from the addition of synth samples. Why did you decide to put these songs under a different moniker?

I don't agree here. I think SZARLEM is very different to what I want to do with FRONT BEAST nowadays. Just compare the SZARLEM album to for example the song "Die under the red moon" on the split 7" with THY ASHES and you'll hear a huge difference. SZARLEM is more in the vein of the lo-fi polish and French Black Metal stuff, while FRONT BEAST is more like TORMENTOR (Hun), ZEMIAL, VARATHRON, BURZUM and GBK for example.

I agree there is not that much of a difference from SZARLEM to older FRONT BEAST stuff, but nowadays it makes sense to release both under different names.

Ok... Correct me if I'm wrong, but Nocturnal is the only band you play in that performs live, isn't it? If you had the time and the suitable live session members, would you like to hit the stage with other bands as well, or do you enjoy more just writing and recording your stuff without anyone banging his head in front of you?

There were plans to enter the stage with EXORCISM and ANGEL OF DAMNATION.... But both didn't work out so far... With EXORCISM we officially gave up to try it, but with AOD it will probably happen one day to play a few exclusive shows, who knows? I prefer recording and writing music than performing live, with NOCTURNAL being the only exception. NOCTURNAL is more of a live band I think.

You're also running the label Deathstrike Records and you're released around 50 titles! Do you always look for bands you'd like to release, or did most of the releases result from good promos you received from the bands? What is your own favorite Deathstrike release so far?

I must say that with DEATHSTRIKE I don't look for new releases anymore. It's more of a mailorder only these days. I will continue releasing a title or two per year, but it will be most likely something I REALLY want to do, like the SACRILEGIUM Wicher album on vinyl for example. I don't listen to promos and I don't want to receive them. Even in the past I never really made a deal with a band because they sent me promo stuff, that's a waste of time in my opinion. Fave DEATHSTRIKE release is a hard to answer question, since I love them all equally, with the exception of one or two I wouldn't do anymore today, but I won't put any names here. A really special vinyl release for me was definitely to do the first SACRED STEEL album on wax. I know many people don't like this band, but this album had a major influence on me when I was a young guy, so it was something I was really excited about.

You're a big vinyl freak from what I know, so how come that you don't make any special die-hard versions of your releases? (Actually I like and support the idea of making only normal editions, without ultra-limited stamp-collectors versions!).

Well, I do like the original idea of the "die hard" editions, but I must say that it went far out of hand during the last years. I also know that posters, stickers, badges and patches in 95% of all cases won't be used what they are made for, to keep the "die hard" complete for value reasons. I do like different colored vinyl and that is what I do with 100 copies of my releases these days, but that's all.

True, there are really few people who are DIE HARD enough to use these bonuses, haha! Thinking of all your Metal activities, I must ask you whether you've also written any fanzine or something like that! Or have you ever at least thought about doing it?

I did one issue of DEATHSTRIKE ZINE in 1999 I think. It was a pain in the ass to do (pre-internet) and it was only A5 with maybe 30 pages written in German. I have much respect for anyone taking the hassle of doing a printed zine! I know it takes a lot of dedication and especially time. After that one issue I realized I better leave the "zine thing" to others and concentrate on things I can do better.... I still have an unpublished ABIGAIL interview, which was planned for the 2nd issue, answered on printed porno advertisements. I honestly think that the "Metal educational value" a zine has these days has gone to near zero. I mean of course you can read interesting interviews and see what the band members do think about this and that and so on. But everyone has already heard about 99% of the bands featured in ANY zine already before through the internet. So it's not that exciting to get a zine from South America anymore like it was 10 years ago. Sometimes you even know better that plans for the band already changed again, because you read it on their myspace site, because the printed interview is already one or two years old. That's a bit sad from a nostalgic point of view, but that's how it is....

Yeah, that's true... Anyway, you're a married man. Is your wife a Metalhead as well? Does she help you with the label stuff etc? If she isn't into Metal - how does she react on the amount of time you spend on all the music-oriented projects you're involved in?

Yes, I'm married with children. A 4 years old daughter to be precise... Yes, my wife is into Metal as well, but not so much into all that underground stuff and no Black and Death Metal. She helps me bringing packages to the post office here and there and she does all the necessary paperwork you need to do once a year for the taxes. Of course the amount of time I spend doing Metal is very much, but we both get along with it quite well. She knows who she married, so no reason to complain here, he.

By the way - what does one of the busiest Metal axe-shredders and desekrators of vokkal kords do for living, when he doesn't answer any interviews during the working hours?

I work as technician for phone and internet lines. I visit people's houses if they need equipment set up or have issues with anything related to those kinds of things. I love this job, it isn't a boring office or factory job where you do the same shit all the time and you have plenty of freedom listening to music while driving around.

And now, probably the hardest question! What are your favorite 10 Metal releases ever?

That's really a hard one, so to make it easier I'll put it into different genres and name 10 for each....

Doom

ST. VITUS - Born too late, CANDLEMASS - Epic doomieus metallicus, WINTER - Into darkness, PENTAGRAM - Day of reckoning, WITCHCRAFT - Firewood, WORSHIP - Last vinyl before doomsday..., DAWN OF WINTER - In the valley of tears, REVEREND BIZARRE - Slice of doom, WITCHFINDER GENERAL - Death penalty, BLACK SABBATH - first album

Heavy Metal

MANOWAR - First 3 albums and Louder than hell, HELLOWEEN - Walls of Jericho, BLIND GUARDIAN - Somewhere far beyond.. RUNNING WILD - Masquerade, GRAVE DIGGER - Heart of Darkness, JUDAS PRIEST - Unleashed in the east, IRON MAIDEN - Killers, OMEN - Battle cry, SACRED STEEL - Bloodlust, LIVING DEATH - Metal Revolution

Speed/Thrash

METALLICA - Kill 'em all, KREATOR - Pleasure to kill, DESTRUCTION - Eternal devastation, SODOM - Obsessed by cruelty + Persecution mania, RAZOR - Violent Restitution, SEPULTURA - Schizophrenia, SLAYER - Reign in blood, DARK ANGEL - We have arrived, EXODUS - Bonded by blood, VIOLENT FORCE - Malevolent Assault of tomorrow

Death Metal

UNLEASHED - Victory, OBITUARY - Slowly we rot, CARCASS - Heartwork, ENTOMBED - Left hand path, DISMEMBER - Live an everflowing stream, MORBID ANGEL - Abominations of desolation, CANCER - Death shall rise, MASSACRE - From beyond, SLAUGHTER - Strappado, NUNSLAUGHTER - Hell's unholy fire

Black Metal

DARKTHRONE - Panzerfaust, SARCÓFAGO - Inri, BLASPHEMY - Fallen angel of doom, BEHERIT - The oath of black blood, GORGOROTH - Antichrist, VELES - Black hateful metal, SACRILEGIUM - Wicher, GODKILLER - The rebirth of the middle ages, DESASTER - Tyrants of the netherworld, URGEHAL - Arma christi

Wow, that's the longest answer I've ever got to this question! It was a long but pleasant interview, thanks A LOT for your time and answers! Please close as you prefer!

Thanks for your support! Since you are from a religious country, I will put some words of respect for anyone in your country standing against the traditional morals and religious views around you. I think it's probably a lot harder being into Metal over there than it is in a more or less free country like Germany. So all horns up to you guys! THRASHING RAGE

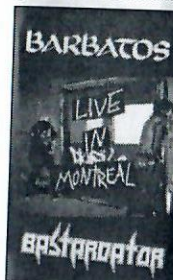
Avenger

Hehe, it's freer than it seems! Thrash 'till total death!

Contact: D.Felber/Weedegasse 19 / 55234 Ober-Flörsheim/Germany
deathstrike@deathstrike.de

Disaster - Criatures Del Mal (Full Length CD/Tape/12", Various Labels, 2006)

Despite being Sudamerican, Disaster sound quiet German and play a mixture of Destruction+early Slayer, and as expected - the result is quite impressive! What you get here is riffs, inspired by the unique riffing way of Mike (Destruction), nicely played solos that make Bay Area classics come to mind and angry vocals that sound like a slightly darker version of Mille Petrozza. Doesn't sound like a description of something you've never heard before? That's probably right, since some parts sound "way too familiar", but it's still decently done. The sound quality is also decent, well fitting a full length. When all is said and done - CDM doesn't miss anything a good Thrash album should have. 8.5 / 10



Barbatos/Bastardator - Live in Montreal (Live Tape, Denim & Leather + Kuravilu, 2008)

Another documentation of Yasuyuki's live gig, this time in Canada, under the banner of Barbatos. If you still don't know what to expect - the answer is LOTS of fun! Barbatos deliver more than half an hour of Punky Thrash a la' Bulldozer, with a unique perverted touch of utter rudeness in the lyrics and Yasuyuki's filthy as fuck voice. Song titles like "Teenage Slut", "Dick is Fucking Big" probably give a good idea of what Barbatos is all about. The sound is pretty cool, the band is well heard, while still having the rawness of a live performance. The opening band on this event was the uprising MetalPunk act BASTARDATOR, who also played a solid dose of very energetic Punk-fueled Speed Metal, though not as sleazy as the headliner. I wasn't so impressed by their stuff on the debut demo, but what appears on this tape proves that this band really deserves the great feedback they got nowadays from such people as Fenriz. 9/10 to both bands.

Terrorama - Omnipotence (Full Length, CD/12", NWN! 2008)

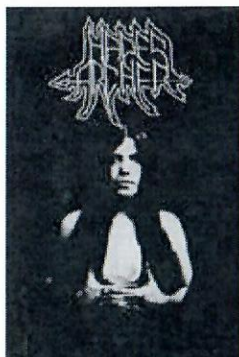
Here is one of the better things to come out of Sweden in the recent years! The music in this album sounds like it was made somewhere in South America, back in the days when Thrash, Death and Black Metal were as close as possible. The element that created the most of the "Sudamerican" feeling is the non-stop usage of hi-hat, in a good way though. As for the riffs - they sound like something Sarco'fago might be playing between "Rotting" and "The Laws of Scourge". However, the music still sounds refreshing and has its unique touch for sure and slower parts as well. Add this lethal mixture a vocalist that sounds like something between Nifelheim's Hellbutcher and TLOS-period Wagner Antichrist and you get an idea what this omnipotent riot of violence is all about! Try it out, if you have the guts to do it! 9.5 / 10



Riotor - Live for Steel (Live MCD, GZE, 2009)

After 2 successful demos (that will or have already been reissued by countless labels) - Riotor got a deal with Ground Zero Entertainment for a live release with a very special packaging. The good side of this story is that it looks cool, but the worse part is the fact that it's only 12 minutes long, features 3 old songs from the debut demo, the sound could be way better, and it was so important for GZE to show that it's a SHAPED cd that there is no artwork. When I get a rehearsal cd-r from a new band, I don't expect it to have Morrisound production, but when I pay for a live album - I expect to hear music that was properly recorded, and even though raw sound is natural for gigs, let's say that the sound quality here is not good enough to be released separately and not just as some bonus tracks on a decently sounding release. I'd say that this MCD is a step back for Riotor, but I hope the future will bring more new stuff and they won't turn into a Canadian "Pagainfire" and keep regurgitating the same songs. The diehard version also has lots of bonuses, some cool and others not so much, but one thing is certain - the wooden box is absolutely useless. Anyway, if you want to buy this live 3" CD - I recommend that you better do it after you've bought both the demos, since they're way better! 6 / 10





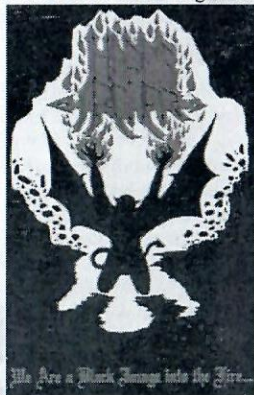
Hades Archer - Daughter of Perversion (Rehearsal 666) (Demo Tape, Kuravilu, 2006)

Here is the debut release of this new Chilean band, recorded on 6/6/06, and if that's how they sound on a rehearsal - I've got to admit that I'm definitely waiting forward to hear their full length! These guys play Black/Thrash that sounds like something between the debut EP Sodom and Rotting-period Sarcophago. Primitive and very angry stuff with very intense drumming, guitar riffing that is exactly between Thrash and early European BM and absolutely demonic vocals, as expected from a South American band. It's easy to notice that this is not just another bunch of kiddies who discovered Thrash a month before forming a band, but people who know what they're doing. In addition to the hateful Blackthrash anthems, there is also 1 song in the band's native language,

which sounds like a flesh ripping Satanic revelation, and the last (5th) song is an outro. When all is said and done - it's a strong start that doesn't sound like just another cheap retro act. 8.5 / 10

Hades Archer - We're A Black Image Into The Fire... (Demo Tape, Kuravilu, 2006)

3 months later (6/9/06)... Again a rehearsal recording, again 5 songs... Again around 20 minutes long... Same format, same label... AND STILL AS GOOD! If you like the previous release - you can't go wrong with this one. This one features 5 new songs that show again what evil Thrash is all about! The faster songs are even more barbaric than before (probably because of the drums, which sound more intense here) and the slow parts, like the beginning of the tape, sound really dramatic and freeze the blood in the listener's veins like a good nightmare. The sound here is a bit worse than in the debut release, but it's still great for a rehearsal recording. Again there is 1 song in the band's native language here, but it's not hard to understand what a song called "Religión, Prostitución" is about, is it? As for the rest of the songs - the lyrics have some pretty interesting occult content and not the usual "Satan oh Satan!!!" stuff. And don't understand the song K.K.K. wrong - it means "Kaos Keraunos Kybernetos"! 8.5 / 10



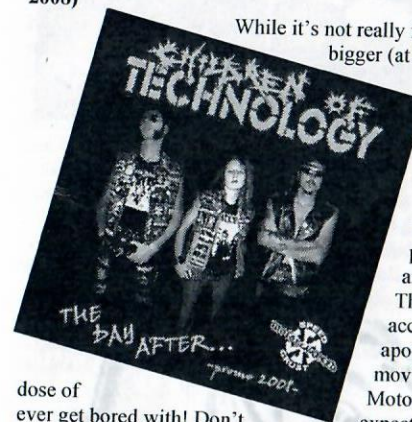
Hades Archer - Penis Metal (MCD, Kuravilu, 2008)



2 years passed and this band finally hit the studio, in order to record properly 6 more songs and give this release one of the weirdest (yet original, haha!) names in Metal (and not only) music ever! Basically the musical direction hasn't changed here and it's the same brutal as fvk Thrash, but it all sounds better and stronger, thanks to the recording quality. Especially the drums here sound way more aggressive and there is a stronger bass presence here, which can be heard much better than in the previous demos. The biggest change is in the songs' average length, which is most of the time around only 2 minutes long here and the slow and dramatic parts are almost completely gone, so the 5 songs here sound devastating and hardly let you rest for around 11 minutes. The 6th song is a hidden track, which is a cover of Sodom's "Equinox". Very impressive

cover, I find it hard to believe that Sodom themselves could play it as dedicated to the original nowadays. When all is said and done - this band proved again with this release that no matter how weird their releases names are, they know how to make no bullshit Metal that is 100% dedicated to its roots, yet doesn't sound like a cheap parody at all. Hope to hear more new stuff from them in the near future, because I'm sure that they're not going to change their style to "Pussy Metal" in the near future! 9 / 10

Children of Technology - The Day After... (Demo CD-R + Tape by Witchhammer/Terror from Hell, 2008)



While it's not really felt in IsraHell, the M.P.D.S. movement is getting bigger and bigger (at least in myspace), uniting these genres into 1 great genre, which in reality exists for as long as Metal bands are being influenced by Punk stuff (even though nobody bothered to call it "Metal Punk" until recently). One of the newer bands that play a mixture of stuff like typical Motorhead-influenced bluesy riffs with more Punk attitude (think Discharge) is Children of Technology, who come from the land of Pizza and Bulldozer.

Despite the fact that it's 66% oldschool Metal (-Punk) they're playing, this demo actually sounds refreshing and not like just another Motorhead-clone band.

Think faster version Motorhead with Lemmy having an Italian accent a la A.C. Wild and you'll get the idea. Armed with a post apocalyptic concept and a female drummer (+inspired by Mad Max movie for sure), they play great energetic Speed Metal with a huge Motorhead-driven Rock N' Roll, which probably no Metal Maniac can expect a musical nuclear attack in the form of hyper-fast or hyper-heavy down tuned guitars, because it's here in the atmosphere. If the songs in this demo (notice the names - "Postnuclear Quarantine", "No Fuel - No Hope", "Vultures Over Cities in Flames" and more) are predictions of the future - I hope that at least the music will be as great as here - simple, dirty and headbangable! Despite the fact that this band exists only since 2007, these 3 maniacs are not 14 years old kiddies who just discovered Metal music and picked their instruments and they know exactly what they do. Nothing is complicated here and as I wrote - this music is simple, but these songs don't sound amateur and sound confident and done well enough to be featured in a full length album already. Maybe this band won't sign a contract with a label as big as Relapse like Toxic Holocaust did, But the potential is definitely there and I hope that soon there will be a full length released! This tape is limited to 200 copies (dunno about the cd-r), so better grab your copy before it becomes a sought after rarity! You've been warned! 9/10

Children of Technology / Cancer Spreading - The Road Warriors / The Nightmare of Existence (7" split, Blasphemous Art Records / Terror from Hell, 2008)

Just after 1 demo and a DVD with first 2 gigs, Children of Technology's music started to get carved in black gold and this is their first split, this time with an Italian Hardcore/Punk band called Cancer Spreading. Since both of the songs that COT had on this release (No Fuel No Hope & The Road Warriors) were previously released on the demo tape - I'll just treat it as a 1 sided release, both because there's no point to repeat the same thing and because the tape version sounds somehow a bit more "breathing" and nicer. As for Spreading Cancer - my knowledge of this genre is not really deep, but overall it sounds very rough (especially the vocals, which like utter pussies) and musically it's something kinda primitive Speed Metal (though with some slow-paced parts) with minimalistic d-beat drumming with utterly dirty sound. Despite the sound though, all the instruments can be heard (yes, including the bass) and overall it sounds like a cool garage demo recording from the early 80's. Personally I don't regret getting this 7" and even though I prefer to listen to the COT stuff on tape - the CS side alone is worth getting spinned from time to time for sure. Strong and steady 8/10 to both of these great bands! They're... (Crazy) Italian!



make many BM vocalists sound parts) with minimalistic d-beat drumming with utterly dirty sound. Despite the sound though, all the instruments can be heard (yes, including the bass) and overall it sounds like a cool garage demo recording from the early 80's. Personally I don't regret getting this 7" and even though I prefer to listen to the COT stuff on tape - the CS side alone is worth getting spinned from time to time for sure. Strong and steady 8/10 to both of these great bands! They're... (Crazy) Italian!

Children of Technology / Bastardator Split (7" split, Black Shit Noise / Muerte Negra, 2009)

Here is another nice 7" that was released by cooperation of 2 new cool labels on red and black vinyl, featuring these uprising Metal-Punk bands from Italy and Canada. Again – the song "Fury of Death" by Children of Technology is great, but again it's taken from the same tape which I already reviewed, so let's see what the other side suggests... Bastardator plays dirty and raw speed Metal, inspired by the old n' good bands like Venom, early Onslaught, Hellhammer/Celtic Frost and such, and the result is definitely impressive. Think Motorhead-inspired but faster leads on the background, with raspy Thrash vocals and very simplistic Punkish drumming that however fits this music perfectly. Simple but full of passion, these 2 songs definitely justify the presence of the Banzai "Speed Metal" symbol on their side of the record, unlike countless disposable Thrash bands that use it, probably without having any clue what it's all about. 8.5 / 10



Children of Technology / Armageddon / Nuclear Frost / Minkions - SpeedPunkMetalCrust (7" split, Terror from Hell/Agipunk, 2009)

This is a split of 4 bands from Italy and Brazil, similar in style but still pretty different. The 1st one is a NEW song from Children of Technology ("On the Road Again"), which is the most Motorhead inspired song they recorded so far. You know what to expect! Back to 1980 with full force, with a bottle of Jack Daniel's in the hand! Lemmy's spirit is felt in the Rock N' Rolling riffs, in the monster bass sound and in the charismatic vocals. After having recycled the demo songs, COT are definitely on the road again! 9 / 10
Then comes a similar riff to the beginning of Hellhammer's "The 3rd of the Storms", from "Frost Doom" by Nuclear Frost, a young Brazilian band. Basically both of their songs here sound like Hellhammer on drugs, with similar primitive songwriting, but with heavy DM growls. 8 / 10
Side B opens with the Brazilian Armageddon's song "Ricardo Animal", which sounds like old grindcore a la Agathocles. This band exists since 1982 and is worth checking out for the lovers of the genre, but for me it sounds just useless. 6.5 / 10
Last but not least – the Italian Minkions supply a faaaast dose of Thrash/Crossover with killer bass work and cool solos, and I can say that the previous band could learn from them how to make mega-fast music rather interesting than pointless. Although I bought this 7" because of the COT's song, I'm glad to discover this band and hope to hear more of their stuff in the future. 8.5 / 10. 8 / 10 to the 7".



G.A.T.E.S. / Children of Technology – MetalPunk (7" split, High Society Satanic Records, 2009)

I heard about G.A.T.E.S., but since their releases are very limited, sell fast and become very expensive, I never heard their music before buying this gimmicky release, because I wanted to hear some new C.O.T. stuff. As for how gimmicky this release is – think 3 versions with different vinyl colors, 3 different covers, which is quite too much for a 7" that features only 2 songs! But it is still worth buying? Well, not for the crazy 80+ POUNDS prices it gets sold for on eGAY already, but still definitely worth getting if you succeed to find it for less.
Now that I've spilled my anger on what almost prevented me from having a chance to buy my copy – let's see what's carved in this 7"... G.A.T.E.S.' song "Disillusion" sounds really interesting! They play kinda Motorhead inspired Thrash. There's cool bass work here with a nice bass solo. Add very angry drunken Thrash vocals and you get the idea. 9 / 10
COT's new song "V8 Nitro Engine" takes a different direction in their music, though it's still the same MetalPunk or korpse... Expect thrashier riffs and less Motorhead influences here. The main differences is that the guitar work is more interesting and a really cool and intense solo can be heard here, which leaves me craving more and more for a (finally!) full length from this band! Try to hunt it for a normal price! 9 / 10



Hell Torment - Opening the Gates of Hell (Full Length CD, CUM, 2008)

Here is a one man project that exists already for a few years. That's the 1st album, after a demo tape that got spread well in the ug. It starts with an intro of some bestial growling a la' Wagner-Antichrist and then evolves into a mixture of blasting Death/Thrash like Vulcano/Sarco'fago, cool solos that could fit a traditional HM band and some more mid-slow "ritualistic" parts too. It might sound a bit boring in the beginning, for except for the cool solos – the first few songs here sound monotonous and repetitive, but this is a grower that requires more listening in order to get into. It's raw, yet the sound is still decent and has a full length and not demo production. All in all – it's not innovative, groundbreaking stuff, but not just another typical clone that has nothing of its own to suggest. It's definitely worth checking out if you're into South American Black/Death! Last but not least – don't get fooled by the similarity between the band's name and Hellhammer, since there's not much in common between them. 8 / 10



Karbonized Traitor – Take it in the Ass (Full Length, CD, Forgotten Wisdom, 2006)

A brief look at the cover artwork and this album's name could give a clue about what this French band plays. Crazy as Hell, full of retarded and sick humor, dirty and uncensored dose of Punkish stuff, characterized by fuzzy guitars and vocals with very sleazy attitude! Very sleazy... 4 out of the 12 songs here are covers (Johnny Cash, Zeppelin, Impaled Nazarene and Loudpipes), 1 is "Venom – In League with Satan" rip off with different lyrics and a part of another one is an instruction of how to give a blowjob! Nevertheless – this band has its own sound and this album sounds homogenous. I wouldn't say that it's a memorable or interesting album, since there is more stupid humor than music here, but I guess it was the aim, which has definitely been reached. It's nice for a couple of spins for a laugh, but it's not a must. 5 / 10



Iron Kobra – Cult of the Snake (Demo Tape, Dying Victims, 2009)



Before I go too far with the musical review, I'd like to inform that the label that released this stuff (first release for both the band and the label) is being run by the great German THRASH ATTACK fanzine editor Florian Grill, and it's highly recommended that you check out both the zine and the label's future releases as well!

As for the demo – I usually mock with disrespect bands that write about Vikings while living in Brazil, "winter-worship" from bands from countries like the one where I live (where a temperature below 18 C degrees is rare) or war praising parasites who come from countries that haven't taken part in any war for centuries and have no fuckin' clue what it means at all. Here is an exception, since despite the fact that this German act sounds Japanese while singing about Ronin and Vikings, they do it amazingly well and I would never guess they're German!
This 5 tracks demo kicks in with a very energetic Heavy/Speed anthem SPEEDBIKER and the amazingly cool Japanese accent of one of the vokillers rules! There is another vokiller here, who has more harsh and Thrashy voice and the combinations works well. The next couple of tracks continue the line of traditional Heavy/Speed Metal, inspired by classics like Iron Maiden and Speed stuff like Grave Digger. Pure no bullshit Metal with heart, soul and balls!
As the tape advances – it seems to get only better! Valhalla Rock is the Viking praising song here, which has a great heroic atmosphere, think Manowar+Metalucifer. The song RONIN is just a masterpiece! An anthem with vibe a la' Maiden with a great feeling of anger and will to avenge! The Japanese sentence that is used in this song means "I hate you for what you have done to me!" and it's what I can say about this band! I hate them for getting me addicted to this demo! Last but not least – a great, catchy THOR (Can) cover to close this demo. The tape is limited to 333 copies and the luckiest 33 maniacs also got a shirt and a pin with their logo! 9, 5/10

Wounds / Pyöveli - Storming Thrash Vengeance (Split CD, Witchhammer, 2007)

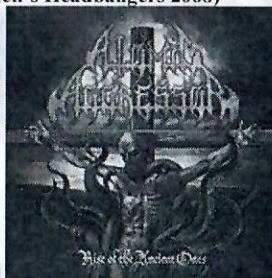
From the first seconds, where you can hear Wounds' chainsaw-bass, it's clear – this Finnish Thrash alliance is not for the weak hearted ones! Wounds opens with 5 very intense Thrash songs that sounds like Death Metal inspired Kreator, where some parts are as fast as grind stuff. The sound is very strong and devastating, but they also know how to play good solos. Overall the only thing I didn't like much here is the vocals, which sound barbaric as fuck, but sometimes too disgusting even for the band's ugly style. Overall it's still a great surprise for me, since I have never heard about this band before getting this split in a trade with Jerasac / Witchhammer, who again did a killer job layout-wise here, cooperating again with Sickn666, who made a great artwork as usual!

When Pyöveli kicks in – it's not hard to hear that it's another band, even though the style is quite similar. Their sound is kinda hidden behind a fog compared to the previous band, but these 2 brothers still kick ass like many quartets could only dream about! They deliver 5 fine Kreator's debut inspired Thrash ('till death!!!) anthems, very fast played almost without rest, with crazy and nasty as Hell vokillz and occasional high shrieks. The 11th track is an outro, which is just a few seconds explosion sound, which is a great way to end such a CD. If you're not afraid of bands that play Thrash that is as intense as Morbid Saint and Sadus back in the days – didn't suck – you won't be disappointed! Both bands get 8.5 / 10!



Atomic Aggressor – Rise of the Ancient Ones (Demos Comp. CD/12", Hell's Headbangers 2008)

Damn, what a killer release! For those who haven't heard about AA before – this is a Chilean band that was formed back in '85 and split up in the early 90's, leaving a legacy of only a couple of demos, but some of the best ever to be recorded in South America! Through the 50 minutes this compilation lasts you hear an intense Thrash/Death storm with a dark vibe and raw but definitely decent sound, perfectly fitting the Lovecraft-inspired lyrics and feeling they had back then. Sorry, actually they STILL HAVE, since after the 2 killer demos Bloody ceremonial ('89) and Resurrection ('91) come 3 songs that were recorded in 2007 and I wouldn't guess it was recorded recently, since it sounds as aggressive as the old stuff! Great riffs, killer bestial vocals a la' early Sepultura and overall great songwriting that doesn't let the listener get bored – that's what they used to be and still are about. If you aren't afraid of Sudamerican sonic violence – buy it immediately! The only weak thing in this release in my opinion is the lame computerized artwork, but you can just enjoy reading the lyrics while the riffs blast instead of looking at it all the time. 9.5 / 10



Heretic – Black Metal Holocaust (Reissue of '99 album on CD/12" LP by KBTMT, 2008)

The Beherit-like logo & panda paint made me think that this CD isn't really worth wasting time on, but I'm glad that I decided to give it a try. Surprisingly, I got to hear really decent sounding 2nd wave BM that has its own touch and doesn't sound like another Norwegian-like clone. It's slow-paced stuff throughout the whole CD, with a big focus on the bass, which I fell in love with immediately, being a Hellhammer fan. Samael's debut came to mind, but this band has its own touch here. They created a really dark and obscure atmosphere here and apart from the raw sound – the riffs are very enjoyable. I have no idea how their 2nd LP sounds, but here you can already hear that BM is too narrow for this band, no wonder they created something so different in G.O.H.S.U.S. album recently. The vocals sound very mysterious, but I could understand all the Satanic to the core lyrics. In short, it's great even if you aren't much into BM, so buy it, maniacs! (The KBTMT version cover is on the right side) 8.5 / 10



Heretic – Gods Over Humans, Slaves Under Satan (Full Length CD/12" LP, KBTMT, 2009)



WOW! This album really differs from what they used to play in the past! The only 2 elements that have left from the past are the 666% Satanic lyrics and the logo, but contrary to the Finnish band they copied the logo from, they didn't start to play techno and shit like that – Heretic are back with a pure Rock N' Roll vengeance from Hell! Clean vocals, mid-fast paced easily flowing music (not really Metal, but kinda Hard Rock) and nice solos are the law here! Greatly recorded and having a great sound, this band can hardly be recognized, but even though their BM wasn't typical crap – this stuff is just a masterpiece! The song Mr. Chainsaw also has an intro and outro consisting of GG Allin's speech about his lifestyle and the song itself sounds like a dedication to Mr. Jesus Christ Allin. That's really great, catchy and memorable stuff to listen to! After 12 songs that belong to the album, comes the song that for me is

personally the highlight of this album, which is a demo recording of the song "The Devil, My Saviour", which has the most enjoyable guitar work and a catchy chorus, closing this great album and making me press the REPEAT CD button every time I listen to this album. I really hope they'll keep playing stuff like this in the future as well! 10 / 10

Dismantle – Satanic Force (Full Length CD, AreaDeath, 2009)

Like the cover artwork by Ed Repka that was obviously edited on PC to have the synthetic shades – this US Thrash album is not really as good as you would expect it to be. This album is exactly what mediocre Thrash is all about – a failing attempt to copy classics like Slayer just probably for the sake of it, without having any personal touch, just to go with the flow. The most annoying part here is the vocals, which sound annoying as fuck, especially when this dude tries to imitate Araya's high shrieks. The guitar work sounds like pure pointless guitar masturbation that leads the solos to nowhere and makes me just want them to stop, instead craving for more. The drumming is most of the time boring and repetitive, but it wouldn't be a big deal if the rest sounded better. Unless you prefer repetitive and absolutely pointless and boring Thrash like Merciless Death (US, not Poland!) over the 80's classic – it's not a must, to say the least. 4/10



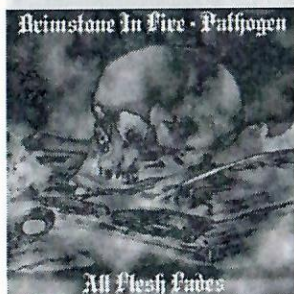
Denial (Mex) - Catacombs of the Grotesque (Full Length CD, Asphyxiate, 2009)



Denial is a new Mexican Death Metal band that consists of local veterans from Cenotaph and Pulverized, so it's not really surprising that this debut album already sounds "ripe" and not like a band that's still looking for its own direction and sound. Talking about the sound – it's very tight and there's not a single note you can miss there from what the musicians have to suggest. As for the music – it's very strong and heavy sounding (as expected from a Mexican band) Death Metal, at times reminiscent of bands like Bolt Thrower, Demilich and a bit of Dismember's heavy as Hell guitar and bass sound. Most of the time fast-paced riffing (here and there more calm parts can be found too) and sharp solos are present here, really well executed I must say. Plus very deep guttural growling, which sometimes sound a bit annoying if you're not into really low deep DM grunts...

Overall it's a well done album and it's obvious that these old guys know how to handle their instruments and straightforward sounding, and better with less guttural grunts, so I wouldn't call it "album of the year" for sure. It's still worth a try if you're obsessed with Death Metal! 7.5 / 10

Pathogen / Brimstone in Fire – All Flesh Fades (Split CD, Brute! Prods. 2009)



This CD features 2 Philippine Death Metal bands, 4 tracks each. Pathogen plays very morbid sounding mix of US stuff a la Incantation meets early 90's Swedeth like Grave. The result is heavy and dark sounding DM with balls of steel! Not boring "brutal" technical shit here, just crushing riffs that vary between mid-paced to fast and deep growling a la Kam Lee! The sound is great, except for in the 4th track, which sounds rawer, thus adding a more barbaric feel and makes Pathogen sound even more evil, even though it's slow. Well done! 9/10.

According to the net – the 2nd band "Brimstone in Fire" was formed back in 1989, but that's the first release that features their music, which is really weird. Anyway, they play very raw sounding Death Metal, technical riffs oriented, mid paced stuff with a vocalist that a bit reminds of Don of the

Dead from Nunslaughter. Even though I like the raw sound and the chainsaw-like bass presence, this stuff didn't catch me and I would say that it sounds boring, especially if compared to the first band on this split. 20 years is enough to make 4 Death Metal songs that don't suck. Anyway, Pathogen is still a good reason to buy this CD. 6 / 10 for BIF, 7.5 for the CD.

Farscape - For Those Who Love to Kill (Comp. CD, Kuravilu. 2008)

If you don't know this killer Brazilian band – it's time to discover them, and this comp. CD is great for the beginning! I know them since their debut LP days, but this CD fill the holes created by lack of their debut demo, their songs from the split 12" in 2005 + more cool stuff you won't find anywhere else. Before I go too far – I must not forget to mention that Farscape's style for over a decade now is Thrash with obvious Kreator influences in the riffing and vocals that remind of Petrozza. It's not innovative, but it kicks serious ass and they're one of the best bands in the genre nowadays, way better than the bands Farscape are inspired by are today. Apart from the demo and split stuff, you also get here 3 new songs from '07, a killer cover of Exploited's "Politicians" and a medley that was recorded during some live performance. Overall it's more than 45 minutes of pure Thrashgasm FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO THRASH! Buy or die! 9 / 10

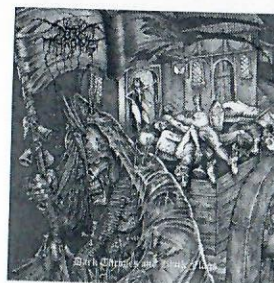


Funebrarum / Interment - Conjuraton of the Sepulchral (Split CD, Conqueror of Thorns, 2007)

If you think that it's pity that Grave and Dismember never had a split CD, try this! During 20 morbid minutes – Funebrarum will make you freeze to the bone with merciless mid-paced DM in the old Swedish/Finnish way! 2 out of 4 songs here are greatly executed covers of Abhorrence and Grave and man – they rule! If you into really HEAVY DM that could wake zombies up from their graves (killer artwork by Chris Moyon btw!) – you'll get fuckin' addicted to Funebrarum. But beware – their crushing sound could make your skull explode if you're a wimp! They're still in shape after 4 years of silence since the 7" release! 9.5 / 10

Next come the recently resurrected Swedish Interment, who came to return what once was theirs – supreme Swedish Death, done the late 80's way! These guys haven't lost even a drop of the passion they used to have back when the band was active and young, even after 20 years of inactivity! Contrary to Funebrarum – their music is fast all the time and they don't rest until they reach the outro. These 20 minutes of headbanging madness remind Dismember's debut a lot and that's definitely a compliment for a band that made a comeback in the 2000's! Stay tuned to their upcoming stuff, they're reborn in blasphemy for real! 9.5/10 Interment, 9.5 / 10 average.

Darkthrone – Dark Thrones and Black Flags (Full Length CD/LP, Peaceville, 2008)



It seems that this band will forever keep going "downhill" and doing more and more straightforward music, and this album is a logical continuation of FOAD, which is in my opinion their best release since the debut! This time you get music that continues the same line, which is a mixture of early 80's Heavy Metal and raw as fuck Punk, fueled by an overdose of "we'll do whatfuckin'ever we wanna do!" Rock N' Roll feeling, like the drunken Fenriz's excited high screams, totally street-oriented lyrics (Hanging Out if Haiger is about hanging out with the guys from OLD in their native city in Germany e.g.), praising TRUE METAL and mocking posers! However, slower and a bit more "Dramatic" parts can be found here, having way stronger content and still kicking some goddamn ass for sure. Even though I like this one a bit less than FOAD, it seems that I won't get tired of this stuff even if they release 100 more albums in this vein. If you're into "The Cult is Alive" and FOAD – this album is also a MUST(earpiece)! 9.5 / 10

Dishammer – Vintage Addiction (Full Length CD/LP, Hell's Headbangers, 2009)



If you think that the front cover with the chick exposing her tits looks bizarre – look at the back side of the CD and notice the picture of the chick getting fucked in doggy style and draw you own conclusions about this album... If you think that this bunch of Spanish maniacs play dirty and nasty mixture of raw as Hell Punk and Speed Metal, praise Discharge and Motorhead and simply don't give a fuck about anything – you're right! Here you'll find 12 atrocious anthems of drunken madness, delivered by basic drumming, Motorheaddriven riffing and a vocalist that resembles Joel Grind. The bass has a strong presence here, contributing a lot to the utterly raw feeling. The lyrics themselves are very shirt and don't have much meaning, but the music is a great compensation. And if you're looking for more cheap amateur porn – just look inside the cool looking hard paper booklet. But if you're looking for neat sound and high level musicianship, you can just FUCK OOF AND DIE! 9 / 10

Pervertum Obscurum – Within the Maelstrom of Fire (Full Length CD, Self Released, 2008)



Here comes the one-man Death Metal project of one of the SANGUINEOUS guys (thanks for the CD, Chris!), which differs a lot from the Sanguineous style, since this is not hyper-fast and brutal, but more traditional sounding DM, probably inspired by such acts as Deicide and Malevolent Creation, where fast and straightforward riffing is the law. As even in the case of Sanguineous – slower (yet very heavy and strong!) parts can be found here too, as well as some Celtic Frost inspired riffs! If you like the aforementioned bands – you'll probably enjoy this album too. Even though the drums are programmed, they sound pretty decent and not too annoying. The only thing personally I didn't like here is that sometimes Chris adds high-pitched growls (think Deicide), which I just can't stand. The production is good, it's not too raw yet definitely not overproduced, so you can hear everything just fine. If you still think that Death Metal is not about technicality for the sake of being technical and craving for crystal-clean plastic production and growling about personal emotions of an average 15 years old emo – you should check this band out for sure! 8 / 10



Bullet (Swe) - Speeding in the Night (CD/Tape/Agonia/Slava, 2004/2005)

Here is another nice looking and sounding tape release on the great Thai Slava Prod, which was released through Agonia Recs. on CD before. Nowadays this band is much better known and still kicks ass, but this early work of theirs explains why they succeeded more in the future. Because it fuckin' rules! Bullet plays true Heavy Metal in its purest form, sounding reminiscent of AC/DC riffing-wise and Accept, because of the vocalist that sounds like Udo meets Bon Scott! The result is almost half an hour of pure Heavy Metal energy, consisting of 6 catchy anthems like "Bang Your Head", "Leather Love" and "Heavy Metal Highway". This stuff sounds very professional, but nevertheless full of the very same passion that turned the music of such bands as Accept, Saxon and Judas Priest so great. If you're missing a dose of kick ass riffs, warm exciting solos and charismatic vocals that sound like a real 80's classic – check this band out NOW and bang your fuckin' head! 9.5 / 10

Attacker Bloody Axe - Attack of the Axe Dominator (Demo Tape, Kuravilu, 2007)

Here is the debut demo of this Chilean horde, which has released a few more tapes since then already. South Americans are known for their violent and intense Thrash style, and even though the main inspirations that can be heard here are obviously the German Sodom (debut album atmosphere) and Destruction (similar riffing), there is some additional dark and angry vibe that can be felt here, which brings the music even closer to Death Metal I would say. The tough sounding vocals (reminiscent of Angelripper) also add a slight DM feeling as well here. It sounds raw but great, since every instrument can be heard well here and the dirtiness fits the genre perfectly, making it sound like it was recorded back in '86! Despite the obvious influences I mentioned before, this band does have its touch and knows how to write riffs of their own and doesn't sound just like another cheap clone of the classics. Overall this band knows what they do and these 5 songs sound like a really strong start, so I hope to hear more stuff released by them in the near future. (And they better be longer, since this one is only 14 minutes long) 9 / 10



Nuclear Abomination - Nuclear'n'Roll (Demo Tape, Impious Desecration, 2008)



The year when Joel Grind signed with Relapse and released a worse album than before – a similar 1-man project was born in France, called Nuclear Abomination. The inspirations are pretty much the same and they can be noticed easily while listening to this tape – Venom, Bathory and some more Punk-inspired stuff like early Onslaught. The result is raw and aggressive Satanic Blackened Speed Metal done in the best traditions. Despite the young age (18 when recording this demo), Max succeeds to create a great oldschool vibe in his music and knows how to handle the instruments, though the music is primitive (but good) anyway. I'm not sure if the drums on this demo are real or well done programmed ones, but they sound a bit synthetic, though hey – it's still just the first demo and it's not bad at all! Overall it sounds pretty good, though I think that this project will sound better in the future if Max will perform more raspy BM-like vocals and less like a drunken punk, + a but more "punching" sound in the music would probably make it perfect, since for now – it still sounds "not bad but forgettable after the listening". But that's just me! Check this band yourself, since it definitely has a high potential! Joel's first ever recordings sounded way worse! 7 / 10

Gospel of the Horns – The Satanist's Dream ('94 Demo reissue of KBTMT, CD/12", 2009)



Here is another old and rare demo that got reissued with utter dedication by KBTMT on killer looking vinyl and CD that shows what GOTH was all about 15 years ago. They were (and still are) addicted to Venom, Hellhammer and used to hang out a lot with the guys from Bestial Warlust I suppose, because the 4 tracks of the demo mix these influences and create a mixture of mid paced, raw as fuck sounding Black/Thrash with fast but primitive and aggressive as fuck parts that brought BW to mind when I was listening to this demo. It's definitely not weak at all for a start, but somehow I got pretty much bored while listening to this CD again and again and trying to concentrate on what I hear, and ended up noticing really cool riffs and melodies that got stuck in my mind only in the 1st and 4th song, however I guess those who are more into different kinds of BM will like it more. There are also 3 raw sounding bonus tracks, one of which was recorded in 2004 and shows that the band stayed loyal to its touch, since it doesn't sound too different. A Satanist's dream or not, if you're into Australian and Antichrist Black/Thrash – it's worth trying out after all. 7 / 10



Gospel of the Horns – The Sinners/Monuments of Impurity ('97-8 Demos reissue of KBTMT, CD/12", 2009)

If you missed the tapes when they were available, here is a chance to get a better version of this stuff, which now also has a Moyon's cover, done in the best(al) b/w traditions! As for the music, the 2nd demo Sinners is a great move forward and sounds way better than the debut in my opinion. The music is more coherent, the recording quality is better, and there are less parts of VON-style sub-primitive and super-useless drumming. From the first riff on this demo you can hear the fascinating guitar work that is greatly presented in the solos, which makes G.O.T.H. an above-average Black/Thrash band in my opinion. Nevertheless, it's not hard to notice their native Australian influences, since they have that kinda "war" spirit in their music, and I still wonder how come that bands from such a silent country have. After the 4 track Sinners demo, come 3 songs of M.O.I. EP, one of which is a very cruel sounding cover of Mortal Sin's "Blood, Death, Hatred" that is executed with utter passion and dedication, but also with GOTH's own blackened touch. Surprisingly – this EP has a way rawer sound, that is rather close to the 1st demo than the Sinners stuff, but it fits greatly and combines both the great musicianship of Sinners and the dirtiness that is so necessary for this genre. Fast and energetic, but unfortunately too short, that's my favorite release from these 2 CD's of their early stuff. Recommended to all Metalheadz out there! 9 / 10



Exordium Mors – Serva Ad Mors (MCD, Stigmartyr, 2007)

This band from NZ has a logo that resembles Impiety, that's the first thing I noticed when I got the cd. The 2nd thing that got me really impressed is the HUGE fold-out booklet that can serve as a poster with the artwork. As for the music, it's also impressive and well done; even though it's not the stuff I usually listen to. The logo's similarity is probably not a coincidence, since musically EM reminds of Impiety with the fast and furious drumming, twisted riffs and overall bestial attitude, but despite sounding chaotic in the beginning – EM's music is actually complex and not primitive at all and arranged in a rather intelligent way. The musicians of Exordium Mors are really skilled and like to challenge themselves, so cool solos can be found here much and the structures of the song aren't predictable. Absu came to mind as well while I was listening to this CD and reading the lyrics, the vocals are similar as well, so don't expect any amateur sounding stuff here. The only thing that sounded annoying to me is the growls that appear in some parts, which don't really fit in my opinion, but if you're into this kind of complex Black/Thrash – the 4 tracks from this CD will do! 8.5 / 10

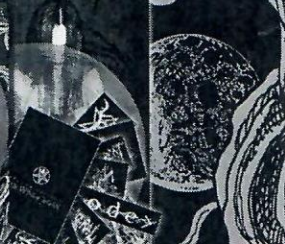
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Witchcurse – Demon's Warning (Demo Tape, Herege Warfare, 2009)

Even though released this year, this demo sounds just as you'd expect a classic NWOBHM band's demo to sound! Great old sounding rough overall sound, that creates an old feeling, while every instrument is clearly heard (and I mean it has a very strong bass presence as well!), greatly flowing melodic solos with lots of feel and a rough sounding vocalist. If you think that the days of D'ianno-era Iron Maiden and old Angel Witch are long gone – check out this band immediately, because this demo really sounds like a forgotten obscure HM gem! Talking about obscure stuff - in addition to 4 original tracks, also a cover of Satanic Rites (an old HM band, not Hellhammer) is recorded here as well and last but not least – the artwork is made by the one and only Milovan Novakovic, who made the logos and the artworks for all Evil's Best's issues! A must for every true Metalhead! 9 / 10



Witchcurse – The Witch is Alive (Demo Tape, Dynamite Distro, 2008)

Here is a great opportunity to hear what a killer NWOBHM gig is all about for those who missed the train and were born too late. Expect 8 songs (+ an intro) that last for around half an hour, sounding raw enough for a live recording yet decent enough to be published. 1 of the songs is a nice cover of Venom's "In League with Satan". Through the whole set, it sounds like a truly passionate, honest and energetic sounding recording. While many new retro Thrash bands nowadays sound absolutely uninspired and disposable, it seems that the classic Heavy Metal is slowly coming back with a vengeance, in a shape of bands like Witchcurse, who in my opinion justify the first song's title on this release, which is "Keepers of the NWOBHM Sound". Contact the band to purchase a copy of this great tape as long as it's available and check out the upcoming Full Length they're going to release through the French INFERNO RECORDS soon! 9 / 10



Stench of Decay – Where Death and Decay Reign (Demo Tape/12", Detest, 2009)

Here is another piece of obscure and rotten sounding Death Metal, unleashed with the help of the Belgian Detest Records. This demo is the newest release on this label, which presents another no bullshit band from the country of Amorphis, Demigod, Slugathor and many other devastating hordez of Dödsmetal. Like a rotten zombie that slowly paves its way out of the grave, Stench of Decay's mid paced riffs desecrate the silence in a very atrocious way, creating a truly morbid but mesmerizing atmosphere. Although the music is most of the time pretty slow and doesn't have the speed and intense aggression of most of the US DM bands, it still sounds very strong thanks to the grim and cold mood that can be felt in every riff and in the malevolent growling. In addition to the 3 original songs, there is also a cover of the obscure local classic Abhorrence's "Vulgar Necrolatry" with a guest appearance of the original vocalist, which sounds well done; even though I would say that the original is still better. The weaker part of this demo is the writing of solos, which sound not memorable and not that impressive + some drum here sounds as if they were programmed. Overall this is a decent release for the lovers of atrocious sounding Scandinavian DM, which is nice to listen to when you're in the right mood (especially for a demo band), but it could still be better and I believe that the improvement will be heard in the next release. Since the demo version was a big success, a 12" vinyl version got pressed as well for all the record nerds, so now you can also choose between a cheaper and a more luxury version of this release. 8 / 10



THRASH ATTACK

New issue (#8) is in the works for a late 09 release. Bands aren't definite yet, but be prepared for a huge dose of heavy/speed/thrash metal in the most ancient way. Speedbangers, Heavy Metal Maniacs, Metalpunx and of course THRASHEADS watch out!

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Explosicum – Conflict (Full Length CD, AreaDeath, 2008)

I'm a fan of early Metallica, where Dave Mustaine wrote lots of stuff, but there are only a few songs I like that Megadeth did. How come? This CD explains why! Megadeth was formed by an impostor! The real Dave Mustaine moved to China after getting kicked out from Metallica! More than 20 years later he formed a Thrash band with Chinese lyrics... The only complaint I have is that he lost the ability to write decent songs during these years... The 1st song opens with a ripped from Master of Puppets riff and you can hear exactly how the rufous cunt sounds when he screams in Chinese after a few joints, that he should have smoked before writing the music and not after. (Maybe then he would write better music). Later you'll hear some more riffs you've already heard before and more uninspired stuff you'd expect to hear from another mediocre US-like Thrash band, where the only standing out thing is the vocals with the annoying Chinese accent. Seriously – if you're an obsessed Thrasher that wants to hear every Thrash release from exotic places – it will do, but there's nothing really special here, expect for the packaging in the traditions of AreaDeath. 5 / 10



Mandatory (Ger) – ...Where They Bleed (EP, CD, Asphyxiate, 2007)

Here is so far my favorite release done by Asphyxiate records! Just like the bunch of exhumed skeletons on the cover – Mandatory supplies here a not big but absolutely killer dose of rotten to the gore Death Metal that I would probably think that was recorded in something like '90 in sunlight studios in Sweden! After the calm classic guitar intro come greatly produced, yet still with the necessary rawness, mostly mid-paced, but absolutely crushing, 3 original songs. This EP is perfectly executed and totally catches the vibe of Swedeth as it was before it got associated with gay mediocre crap like In Flames! If you're looking for absolutely sick vokillz from the catacombs, really heavy sound and nice solos and miss the times when bands like God Macabre, Desultory and Grave were the law – buy it immediately! There's also a killer bassy cover of Razor's "Cross Me Fool" that sounds fuckin' scary (in the good sense). Support! 9.5 / 10



Paganizer – Born to be Buried Alive (EP, CD, Asphyxiate, 2008)



Here's another Death Metal EP, unleashed by Asphyxiate records that looks and sounds very pro-done. This band is not new, but that's the first time I heard them and it's not really my cup of tea. They play Death Metal with deep guttural grunts and have a very tight, modern sound production that doesn't fit this music in my opinion. Anyway, it's still not modern shit like Behemoth and musically it's well done Death Metal with some Thrash touch, fast and furious as expected. In addition to the 6 tracks of the EP, there are also 2 live and way rawer (better, haha!) sounding older 2 songs (that appear as 1 track on the CD) and 1 track from their gig with Machetazo that can be watched in video format through a PC, but it could look better if wasn't filmed from a single angle. If you can stand crystal clear sound and guttural growls – give it a try. 7 / 10



Perversor (Chl) – Cult of Destruction (Full Length CD/12", NWN! 2008)

First release, and already on NWN! This gotta be really killer shit, huh? Yes, it definitely is! A brief listen to any track from this Blackened Deathrash attack will disclose Perversor's South American origin and they're already one of my favorite Chilean acts! Think their native cult Pentagram + Sarcófago's INRI-era stuff, that's what you get here! Non-stopping aggressive anvil pounding, dark as night, intense axe riffing and raspy as fuck vokillz, think Joel Grind on Evil Never Dies meets Wagner Antichrist! The sound is perfect for this music as well – very obscure on the one hand, yet you can hear everything well. BEWARE – this 30 minutes long devastation is addictive and it's not for weak hearted! 10 / 10

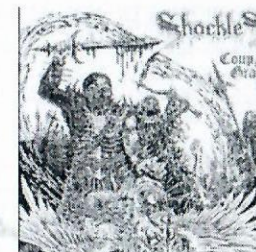
Wastelander – Wardrive (Full Length CD, Planet Metal, 2008)

As you can see in the greatly designed huge booklet of this CD, these guys live in some bunker, armored to their teeth and spend their lives drinking, listening to old Metal LP's, somewhere beneath the wasteland that the Earth turned after a nuclear attack. They also play a mixture of Thrash & Crust in a mood of 1st wave BM. There is more musical variety here than in any BM release though. This mixture definitely works, so the result is 11 tracks that don't sound too similar to one another. Some are more kinda "Motorhead-driven", some remind more of early Celtic Frost and some are slower, but still kick ass! Add really enjoyable guitar solos and a chainsaw-like bass and you get the idea. Here and there you can hear radio news about the end of the world, which brought really sick pictures to my head. The singer has a wide spectrum of singing styles, from absolutely clean HM vocals to utterly aggressive and disgusting (in the good way) BM screams. This is only the 1st album by the band and the 2nd release of Superchrist vocalist's label and it already rules supreme! Buy or be a wimp! 9/10



Shackles – Coup De Grace (Reissue of a demo from 2006, Kneel Before the Master's Throne, 2008)

As you'd expect – Hellfucker family reissued a killer demo here, made by the unfortunately split-up nowadays band, after they released their debut LP this year. I haven't heard the full length yet, but this demo sounds really impressive! Shackles play here very evil sounding Black/Thrash, reminiscent of Toxic Holocaust, but musically more interesting and not as simplistic as TH's stuff. In addition to the usually Black/Thrash riffing with raw and angry vocals, there are also very enjoyable Heavy Metal-style melodic guitar solos, so the fact that the 1st and the last tracks are instrumental makes it even better, since the guitar work here rules. In addition to the demo tracks, you'll also get 3 live bonus tracks, 2 of which aren't from the demo, which is great. Even greater is the sound of these songs, which is actually as good as the studio stuff! Unless you're a gay "Only black Metal" wimp – there's no excuse not to buy this CD! 9/10



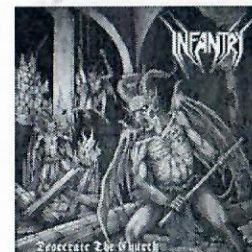
Infantry – Ressurect (Demo CD-R, Self Released, 2007)

This young trio (thanks for the cd guys!) plays Thrash that sounds more German-inspired, especially by Destruction riffing-wise, rather than Gay-Area stuff. As you can see from the artwork (Sickness666 I believe) – they don't deal with social issues or environment pollution, but more blasphemous, Satanic stuff, and that's the way they sound here, especially thanks to the early BM-oriented vokillz. They didn't create anything outstanding or too memorable here, but this demo isn't bad for a start, having a fine sound and cool guitar solos. It would sound better if the overall temp was faster though. It's pity that it got released only on CD-R, but no big deal. Try it out... 7 / 10



Infantry – Desecrate the Church (Demo CD-R, Self Released, 2008)

I wonder if this demo was recorded during the same session as the first one, since the sound is the same and there aren't any real differences between them apart from the part with the classic guitar in one of the songs, that doesn't really make it sound way better. On the one hand it's not bad, since it would be way worse if they started to play something really DIFFERENT, but on the other hand, it sounds very repetitive and cliché and there's nothing really amazing about this demo or the debut that would make me want to listen to it again and again. This mid-paced stuff got me really bored, even though it's only 18 min. long. It's not that it sucks, but not a must either. 6.5/10



From the land of Pizza and Bulldozer comes the new generation of keepers of ancient traditions, who combine Metal and Punk music and do it with huge amount of passion and honest attitude. They already have an evergrowing list of vinyl releases and they're the last survivals of a nuclear attack! They're CHILDREN OF TECHNOLOGY!

Hi Astolfi! How are you there? First of all - I'd like to ask you about your band name, what does it mean exactly?

Sergei!!! First of all, thanks a lot for having contacted us!!! I'm starting to answer you while listening to "The Full Treatment" of Canadian AGGRESSION... Here it's alright, we're very very excited about our latest releases and satisfied by our sacrifices to make all this possible! Well, about our name - just listen to "Carnivore" track from the self title album of this amazing band and you'll understand the reason of the choice... Moreover, that name means also what we really are and what the world is in this age. Slaves of digital dictatorships... Prisoners of synthetic feelings... Sons of modern atrocities... We are the Children Of Technology!!!

Yeah, great choice for a name! How did the whole band thing start?

The idea of this band started in summer 2007 by me, TurboRattleFingers (our ex-guitarist) and Goddess H.C. with the intention to put on music the post-atomic atmosphere really focused on Mad Max saga. About music - we wanted to create something aggressive and catchy at the same time, a sort of punk metal rock 'n' roll I think, we taken influences from our favourites acts and we started to rehearse only in winter 2007, 'cause we live in different cities and it's difficult for us to try often with the band. But when it happens we work very hard, giving the 100% of ourselves into this creature. This is the reason why during a short period of the band's existence we got so many releases.

That distance was the reason of your ex-guitar player's departure? And talking about MAD MAX - Please recommend more movies/books/whatever you're inspired by!

No, the distance wasn't the problem. Well, I can explain in a few concepts the departure of our first guitarist: in the beginning, he got another main Thrash band and he preferred to continue playing in C.O.T.... But he didn't have enough time to spend on 2 bands. He wanted to keep C.O.T. as a "studio" band, but as we played live, well people became crazy and moreover - many fans in the world liked our catchy sound immediately ... So he told us that would be difficult to continue, and Splatterhead immediately took his place (you must know that first of all he's a guitarist...). He learned so quickly and now, I must admit, we're more united and strong as a real group/band/gang!!!

Yeah, Mad Max rulez! But also the first Mad Max chapter is hot!!! Then Blade Runner, Dune, The Bronx warriors and many cool underground movies, especially from the eighties, are our tastes and influences of C.O.T. when it comes to survival in a post nuclear world, the search of current saint grail, better known as gasoline, bad attitude clans criminal way to live ect...

Do you see it only as entertainment, or do you think that the process of technological development might really lead to disastrous results in the pretty near future?

See what kind of news the mass-media is spreading through TV ect... We're near the end hehehe... (I must save my records somehow mmm...)

You haven't been around for that long, yet judging by your first 2 gigs DVD and the ever growing amount of releases - it seems that you've got lots of written stuff already, though you keep releasing just 7"'. Are there any plans for a full length in the near future?

After about 5-7 months of rehearsing, we recorded our first demo "The Day After..." in summer '08 and it was very good appreciated by many sincere maniacs!!! From that demo - 3 tracks were pressed on vinyls (2 on the split with Cancer Spreading and another one in the Bastardator split). We were very excited to play live and decided to commemorate that event by recording a video of those 2 dates... As you can see, the result is a noisy confusion and bit lack of experience, but the result was fucking cool and dirty, so we wanted to put out that shows on a self-made DVD, that also includes some preview of future tracks.

We've played other live performances and time after time we become more angry and aggressive on stage, this is the way C.O.T. want to play! We have an hyper banging motorfuckin' dynamic attitude on live!!!

At the end of '08 we entered the studio again for another recording session. More tracks, but we didn't know for sure where they will end up. Some releases were already planned (as the G.a.t.e.s. split or a 7" under Iron Bonehead) and some other not.

However, we don't like to spread news about our works until they're out. In the beginning of this year our guitarist left the band and the bassist Splatterhead moved to play the guitar and his brother T. N. Thrashard (already a singer of Crossover/Thrash/HC band MINKIONS) joined as bass player, so C. O. T. now has a solid line up, a quartet that is ready to destroy your bones!!!

Nowadays we're working on a full-length LP. Some songs are already written, but we need time, so don't expect it to be released this year. Maybe in early 2010.

By the way, other releases will come before the album... Probably 2 solo EP's (the one under Iron Bonehead plus another one)... Just wait and see!!!

Noisy confusion? You gotta be kidding! It looks absolutely fine for debut gigs! By the way, talking about live performances, is it only me or is there usually so little moshing on local gigs in Italy? Here in Israel there's much of it whether it's a Grindcore or Glam band's performance, so I was pretty surprised to see the crowd just standing and hardly even head banging on some live recordings I've seen.

Italian people usually mosh and bang their head at gigs of course... Punks are more agitate than Metalheads hahaha, but they all enjoy at shows!

By the way, talking about your splits... Your splits with the Japanese band G.A.T.E.S. seems to be limited as Hell and got sold out during something like 1 day. What was the print run of each one of the versions and can all those maniacs who missed it expect to see it reissued in the future?

Hell yeah, that split is a fucking great cooperation! Many months of work were put into it (thanks Masayasu!!! You rule!!!) and everyone has worked in the best professional way. Ha, it's limited of course... Less than 1000, but more than 500 copies are made of that release, and it will be not repressed, sorry.

Nowadays you all got the "internet" shitty source of power, use it to search for the releases you need, not to make gayous gossips!

That EP got distributed by good labels, such as NWN!, DeathrashArmageddon, Record Boy, Iron Bonehead... Just seek, as I do by myself searching for a rarity I absolutely need!

Be hunters of records!!!

Well, the sad thing about this release is that now it can be found mostly only on eBay auctions and the prices are insane. By the way - are there still many records shops in Italy? And as for internet, as someone who got into ug Metal before it became a norm and someone who uses tools like e-mail and mspace nowadays - do you consider it a blessing or a curse?

Few record-shops survived in Italy... The most UG ones (where you can find something over the usual last Metallica / Iron Maiden stuff) closed with the advent of the MP3. That kind of music listening is totally shitty and is killing underground distros and shops as well!!! Fuck Off!!!
I like to use internet only to keep my contacts through mspace and e-mail and to buy records of course! It's not a curse; it is a sort of evolution...

But THE INTERNET IS FOR PORN!!! HAHA! Anyway, it's rare to see a female player in a Metal band's line up, so you could be considered an exception. This question is more directed to Goddess of Hammering Chaos - why in your opinion do fewer women take part in Metal bands? What's your favorite band that has female members?

Hi Sergei! Well, it's good that you asked me this question, because in Metal world, as you know, there are many angry and powerful women, but we are a minority, so all the people see Metal as a place for men. Just look at The Great Kat, Acid, Détente, P.U.S., Nausea, Bolt Thrower, Sacrilege (UK), Detestation, and of course Girlschool! Women have always been into Metal or punk, but it doesn't seem so because men have always been on the foreground.

Metalheads think that women can't live and make Metal like men. Obviously not all, but the most of them. In punk scene there's a different vision of the woman, and you can see this also in the social and politically involved themes they spread.

I feel the passion for Metal and Punk music like a drug, and if some typical Manowar maniac thinks that women don't have the same angry attitude as men, maybe they know only groupies! Ha ha!

Haha! Even though Manowar is one of my favourite bands, I gotta agree with you! The song CHAOSMUTANT HORDES is dedicated to the M.P.D.S. (Metal Punk Death Squad) movement. Let's say that there's no such a thing in Israel... What is it all about and how does it exist outside MySpace?

Metal Punk Death Squad is a killer great congregation of bastards maniac and hungry for Metal and punk music, living it having good attitude and passion, supporting real sincere bands, records, promoting some shows under the M. P. D. S. union ecc... I think it's a good circle made up by honest people to exalt what they love. The M. P. Death Squad hasn't reached your country? If you think you're a fucking REAL maniac, OBSESSED by the music you listen/support as LIFESTYLE, this is the only qualification to be into it... Well, man, spread the movement in israel!!! Metal never dies!!! Punk is not dead!!! Up the Metalpunk legions of the night!!!

Well, I'm not a supporter of local parasites that burn the local flag during their (punk) gigs, so I'll leave local punk to local punks and stick to my Metal activities. I also heard about Club Alcolisti Millenari... Seems that you headbangers are very united there. Let's say that there's not much cooperation between Metal and Punk here and these "movements" don't really like one another. Does it differ a lot in Italy?

There are some fractions here also... Must know that (sadly) Italy is made up of lot of closed-minded people. It's difficult to unite the Metal and punk scenes, but something strange is happening in the last years when some Metals started to frequent punk habitats and great friendship was born! Someone is extremely excited about this, some others are not... The only thing I can say is: Up the MetalPunk age!!! Support the underground!!!

There is one question I feel compelled to ask you, just because you are... Italians! What are your expectation from Bulldozer's reunion and their upcoming brand new album?

We know Andy Panigada very well, he's a good friend of us and he's a really good guy also after all these years of Bulldozer silence. But we can't say nothing about the new Bulldozer stuff. He told us that most of the tracks were already written many years ago.

We expect something great from them, of course, but only the future can reveal what they really are. Just wait and see. (Probably when this zine comes out, the album will be already in the record shops and distros...)

Yeah, I'm just excited/skeptic about this particular comeback, haha! Now give me a list of your favorite Metal, Punk, Metalpunk or whatever 10 albums that you wouldn't trade even for fuel!

Aaargghh man, the worst question! 10 albums are VERY FEW for my tastes! However, try to list the favorites of ever:

BATHORY "Bathory"
VOIVOD "Dimension Hartross"
AXEGRINDER "Rise of the serpent men"
IRON MAIDEN "Killers"
ENGLISH DOGS "To the end of the earth"
DEATH SS "In Death of Steve Sylvester"
SARCOFAGO "Inri"
SACRILEGE "Behind the realms of madness"
HELLHAMMER "Apocalyptic raids"
DISCHARGE "Hear nothing See nothing Say nothing"

And I must say I cannot live without "Cryptic Revelations" album of BLUDWOLF and of course without any TOXIC HOLOCAUST stuff!!!!

GoddessH.C.:

Is very hard to put in a short list what I love in music, but more or less it sounds like this:

WARFARE "Mayhem Fucking Mayhem"
AMEBIX "Arise"
ENGLISH DOGS "To the end of the earth"
SACRILEGE "Behind the realms of madness"
EXCITER "Heavy Metal Maniac"
HELLHAMMER "Apocalyptic raids"
TANK "Filth Hounds of Hades"
VOIVOD "Killing Technology"
ANTI CIMEX "Absolute Country of Sweden"
DÉTENTE "Recognize no Authority"
After this hellish list I have to underline my total mania to all METALUCIFER stuff and INEPSY Rock'n'roll sound!!

Any last word before Armageddon comes?

Of course we want to thank you for your great support and friendship, and hail to all the motorcharged warriors around the world that everyday support us and listen to our sleazy sound! When Armageddon will come to destroy the world, only Metal-Punk dirty hordes with their music will remain to reign the ruins of the Earth...We're waiting! SEE YOU ON THE ROAD!

Thanks! Stay Motorcharged!

Contact: www.myspace.com/childrenoftechnology

For those who haven't read my 10/10 review of their debut album, *Funebrarum* is a killer oldschool Death Metal band from the USA, which actually sounds way more like a Swedish/Finnish DM act from 20 years ago. "Unfortunately I still haven't had the chance to put my hands on their new album "The Sleep of Morbid Dreams", but I bet it's another masterpiece and meanwhile you're hellcome to read this interview, which also brings some info about the Black Metal project ABAZAGORATH, in which some of *Funebrarum*'s members are involved. Enjoy!

Hi Dave! How are you there lately? What are you busy playing lately?

Hails and cheers to you Sergei!! I'm not too bad, doing quite well actually. Well, as for what I have been listening to lately, it has been a lot of older sounding doomy rock stuff like JEX THOTH, BLOOD CEREMONY, WITCH, WITCHCRAFT, THE DEVIL'S BLOOD, and old PENTAGRAM (Maryland, USA) who I will be seeing in concert on Friday in New York City. I am pretty psyched for this show!! As far as music I am working on myself, I have been playing bass in the local Doom Metal band EVOKEN for the past year or so. (My FUNEBRARUM cohort Nick Orlando is also one of their founding members.) We will be heading off to Europe in less than a month for about two weeks of dates on the mainland with OFFICIUM TRISTE and ISOLE and then we will do 3 shows in Finland with SPIRITUS MORTIS ending it all off at the "Firebox Metal Fest" where we will be performing alongside bands like KATATONIA, SHINING, FORGOTTEN TOMB, and ROTTEN SOUND. So, it should end up being a pretty amazing and exciting few weeks for us!! As for FUNEBRARUM, keep reading and you will find out about some cool shit coming up soon!!!

How did the cooperation between *Funebrarum* and the recently resurrected INTERMENT, which brought the split that was released in 2007 happen? Are you planning to release any new stuff soon btw?

Well, as I am sure any well educated Death Metal fan will guess from listening to FUNEBRARUM, we are obviously into the "forefathers" of Death Metal from the late 80s and early 90s, with a particular interest in Swedish and Finnish bands. Our vocalist Daryl is probably the most obsessed with Scandinavian Death, as he has spent lots of time finding out about the most brutal & obscure bands long before anybody ever wrote a book on the subject... Over the years he has "unearthed" and turned me onto all sorts of cool bands like MACRODEX, UNCANNY and OBSCURE INFINITY – bands that 90% the DM fans out there have never even heard of!!! Anyway, INTERMENT is one of these awesome bands, and he got in touch with their vocalist / guitarist Johan about releasing their demos on CD through our Morbid Wrath label. This all happened at about the time word on Daniel Ekeröth's Swedish Death Metal book was starting to spread, and interest in INTERMENT was increasing. This inspired Johan to get the guys back together and work on some new material. At that point, he and Daryl came up with the idea for the split and they spoke to Howard of Conqueror of Thorns about putting it out. We're happy as Hell to be sharing the split with INTERMENT as they totally kick ass and I am looking forward to their long awaited debut album which will be coming out on Pulverised Records. Anybody into NIHILIST / old ENTOMBED, CARNAGE or DISMEMBER will love INTERMENT!!!

Oh yeah, we are on the cusp of getting the new full length, "The Sleep of Morbid Dreams" out at last through Germany's Cyclone Empire Records. They have all the graphics for the CD and LP layouts, and we are just waiting to get the ok on the audio master from a couple of the other guys before handing it over for pressing. We actually recorded the album at the end of August 2007, so it has been a long road to finally get this happening!!! The projected release date is April 17th!!!

Yeah, it's really the first time I hear about MACRODEX, UNCANNY and OBSCURE INFINITY indeed, haha! Do you and Daryl run the label together by the way? Is it much harder for an underground Metal label to survive nowadays, when almost any release can be downloaded via the internet than in the past, or do you think that the fans in the ug remain as supportive and loyal to the music and it doesn't cause the same crazy percents of money loss as in the case of major labels?

The Morbid Wrath thing is a bit complicated. For a long time Daryl always talked about wanting to collaborate on releasing stuff, but I was never quite totally committed to jumping into something like that.

But, in early 2004 when the original plans to release ABAZAGORATH's "Sacraments of the Final Atrocity" CD fell through while we were in the middle of recording it and only about 6 weeks away from a European tour, we made the decision to put it out ourselves, and that is how the label was born. In the process of contacting labels and distros to carry the disc, I did a lot of trades and so I was able to build up a pretty sizeable stock of different items. But the fact of the matter is I saw Morbid Wrath as a means to an end, getting the "Sacraments..." CD pressed and out there, and while it would be cool to run a label, I did not want to dedicate the time and money to it, especially in the case of putting out stuff for other bands. I just don't want to have to deal with the pressure of other bands relying on me to "make them." I'd be afraid to disappoint someone with their hopes and dreams riding on what I could do for them. So right now I am just kind of half-heartedly trying to do the distro side, trying to liquidate stock. However, Daryl has more ambition as far as putting stuff out, and he has carried on with it, and he has released a couple of CDs, MUCUPURULENT's "Sicko Baby," GOREMENT's "Darkness of the Dead" and ETERNAL DARKNESS' "Total Darkness" with co-production assistance from Necroharmonic Productions. He even licensed a vinyl edition for the ETERNAL DARKNESS to Spain's Temple of Darkness Productions. And as far as I know, he still has future plans to release some more obscure underground gems. Yeah, it ain't easy to run a label these days with the ways things are going with the music business, so that's why I would rather leave it to somebody else!!! HAHA!! I do indeed think that a lot of people are downloading stuff rather than buying it, but there are "old fashioned" guys like myself out there who prefer to have the "real" product because it has more "substance" and because it hopefully helps out the band / label. It's kind of a tough time to be in the "music business," so it's a crucial time for musicians to come up with new ways to get their product out there without losing their shirts financially.

How important is it for you to get your stuff released on vinyl? I guess that you're a vinyl collector yourself, aren't you? What is the biggest rarity you've got in your collection and most sought after release you'd like to hunt?

It's great to have stuff out on vinyl, but I wouldn't say it's important, just a cool bonus. Yes, I do like to collect LPs and 7"s but I am by no means a fanatic. I don't currently own a record player, and I love to listen to music, not just hoard it at this point, so it doesn't make sense for me to go crazy on buying records. I think my most prized vinyl (besides any of our own stuff) is the NECROVORE / SARCOFAGO split picture disc LP I have hanging up on the wall in my bedroom. Off the top of my head, I can't think of any one particular rare LP I would like to find, but once in a while I pop into the record store I went to as a teen and see if they still have any cool old Thrash / Death LPs in stock.

Why did you decide to release the upcoming album through a different label, and not NWN! ? What major differences (if there are) between the debut and this one could you point at?

Nuclear War Now did not express any interest in releasing the new record. We went with Cyclone Empire because their offer was head and shoulders above all the others. This album sounds better, the songs are better and we all played better...

Both you and Daryl play in a Black Metal project called ABAZAGORATH and at least in the past both of you used to play in other bands as well. How and when did you meet and started to play together? Who writes the majority of the stuff in each of the projects?

I met Daryl / "Morgul" back in May of 1995 when I put an ad out in a local music newspaper to form a Black Metal band. He gave me a call, we became best friends almost immediately and within a few weeks we had the first line up of ABAZAGORATH together. Daryl is actually a pretty well known figure in the New York punk and hardcore scene, having performed with the seminal band CITIZENS ARREST, as well as other bands like ASSUCK, TASTE OF FEAR and FORCED EXPRESSION. I also did some stuff before forming ABAZAGORATH, but it was much less notable... Daryl writes a lot of the riffs for ABAZAGORATH, as well as whoever else is playing guitar at the time. I have written some stuff and have quite a number of ideas and riffs that have yet to be used. We both write lyrics, he perhaps a bit more so. For FUNEBRARUM, most of the music has been written by guitarist Nick Orlando, though our other guitarist Matt Medeiros contributed a lot as far as working out the arrangements. But Daryl brings his riff ideas to the table too. And while Daryl writes most of the lyrics, almost everybody has contributed something in that area.

The way the songwriting process works with either band is that we will get together in the living room where Daryl and I live and we will show each other riffs until we come up with a few promising ideas and start putting them together. We will play them along with beats from a drum machine and once we have a few good things put together, record them to a 4 track for future reference. Sometimes guys will show up with several riffs put together or complete songs, but often we may pick them apart and re-work things before arriving with a song that is 100% cool for the whole gang. Once we have a completed song, we go to the rehearsal room to show the material to the respective drummers – Chris “Warhead” in ABAZAGORATH and Shawn in FUNEBRARUM. Then we blast the shit out at full volume and any final changes are made with the full band’s involvement.

Fuck! I'm hardly familiar with any Hardcore/Punk bands, yet I've definitely heard about ASSUCK and of corpse CITIZEN ARREST! Are you into these genres too, or are you mostly into extreme Metal?

I’m definitely a Metalhead first and foremost, but I “came into my own” during the mid to late 80s, when the Crossover movement was big. So, I’m into a lot of that stuff like old D.R.I., C.O.C., S.O.D. and SUICIDAL TENDENCIES and I was into some other hardcore stuff like the New York bands AGNOSTIC FRONT, MURPHY’S LAW and BIOHAZARD. Back in the late 80s / early 90s it was pretty common to see bands like DESTRUCTION or VOI VOD playing with the CRO-MAGS or PRONG locally. Lately, I have been getting into some other punk stuff like AMEBIX and Daryl’s always playing me some really fucking sick stuff like G.I.S.M. or SYPHILITIC VAGINAS, and often it’s just as sick and extreme as any Metal out there. Whether you like it or not, punk has had its influence on a lot of Metal, whether it be old school gods like MOTORHEAD, VENOM or BATHORY or newer groups like DARKTHRONE or TOXIC HOLOCAUST!!

And what's your opinion about Toxic Holocaust's signing with Relapse? Do you think in general that it's better to get signed in major labels nowadays, when most of the music gets illegally downloaded, or to stick to the smaller labels that print/ sell less copies, but care more about music and less about money?

Whatever works for him, man... I’m sure it will help with promotion, distribution and getting bigger and better tours. I don’t think that being on a bigger label will make much difference in stopping illegal file sharing of albums. Larger labels may be a bit more savvy on how to handle such matters and may offer different opportunities and strategies to disseminate their product to counteract file sharing, but I don’t know how much of an impact they can have in this regard. I think the music business is overall in a pretty dire straight right now so I’m sure things are tough for major and independent labels alike. Best case scenario is to find a dedicated label run by music lovers who are also smart business people.

I remember that I read in some local e-zine (in Hebrew) that you take breaks from band activity in Abazagorath from time to time, is it the same with Funebrarum? What are they good for?

There was a time back in 2000 when somehow we all found enough time to work on both bands at the same time, but that has changed. Just speaking for myself, I just do not have enough time these days between work, commuting to the job and trying to take care of other things to work on more than one project at a time. So right now, yes we do take breaks from FUNEBRARUM as well as ABAZAGORATH. Plus there have been some pretty numerous line-up changes for both bands, so that has been known to stifle activity. Back at the end of 2000, when things were starting to take off for FUNEBRARUM our drummer Brian quit and that totally killed our momentum for a few years. The band was basically dead until 2002 when Roy of Necroharmonic Productions released the “Beneath the Columns of Abandoned Gods” CD and that sparked some interest and got us back in the mind-set of getting things going again, so we did the “Dormant Hallucination” 7” with a session drummer, Justin DeTorre. But it still took us until 2005 to finally find a new full time drummer, Shawn Eldridge, as well as the second guitarist, Matt. From there we were able to work steadily on new material that ended up being the INTERMENT split as well as the new album.

May I ask where do you guys work in your everyday life and what hobbies you have except for Music?

I work in television post production for World Wrestling Entertainment. I work in a room called “master control,” which is kind of the brain of the TV studio. All video content, whether it be our TV shows, promotional footage, content for the website, etc., goes through this room in one form or another.

So when I am on the job I could be making tape dubs, ingesting video clips into servers, sending out or taking in satellite feeds, assisting editors and producers, etc. I even make dubs of some of our pro wrestling / “Sports Entertainment” shows that are sent to Israeli TV stations. As far as outside interests, I like to read, watch movies and a few TV shows, hang out with family and friends and do some exercising. For me, Metal is much more than a hobby - it is my lifestyle!! Now onto my FUNE-band mates: Daryl is a graphic artist / web developer by trade for a small advertising agency. He’s a huge movie buff and he likes cooking and drawing. Nick is currently between jobs and could possibly go back to school. He moved to North Carolina a few months ago, pretty far away from the rest of us, unfortunately, so he is busy settling in there with his girlfriend, her kids and his mom. Matt is a computer whiz who does programming for a promotional firm and he’s kind of a comedian, always telling jokes and funny stories. Shawn works at a gas station and he also likes to draw and is kind of a musical prodigy, into many varied genres of music and capable of playing guitar and bass as well as drums. On the ABAZAGORATH side, Chris / Warhead is a supervisor in network support for a telecommunications company and his main interests are his lovely cool wife, young son and marijuana. Vocalist Mike / Nihilist works in the deli department at a supermarket and he is totally into music, movies, partying, beer and pot!!

If I take a brief look at the lists of both bands' releases, I'll see mostly demos, splits and hard any full length releases. I have a feeling that it's intentional, isn't it? How do your fans usually respond to the fact that sometimes they have to wait for 3-4 years just in order to hear a new single from you?

Not necessarily, as all of the turmoil of line-up changes as well as these slow periods have affected our productivity. So usually it is indeed a couple of years between most of our releases, but hopefully each one has a high level of quality and is free of “filler.” I do not want to be in one of these bands that puts out a new record every year and while the first 2 or 3 may be awesome, after that the quality starts to drop and things sink into mediocrity or worse... Fortunately for us, there are people out there who like what we do, so we get good reactions whenever we finally get something new out.

Oh yeah, I agree that it's better to supply QUALITY and not just QUANTITY! Do you perform live a lot (I'm talking again about both of the bands)? Did gigs featuring both bands ever happen? Please tell about the most memorable gig you played under the banner of each of the bands!

Each of the bands have also had their high and low points as far as gigging goes. ABAZAGORATH has played live the most. We did shows semi-regularly from 1996-2004. We played some great shows in the New York area with lots of sick bands like IMPALED NAZARENE, MARDUK, ENSLAVED, DESTROYER 666, ENTHRONED, DEICIDE, PROFANATICA, BLACK WITCHERY, ANTAEUS, HELL-BORN, VITAL REMAINS, INCANTATION and many others... We also did about 10 dates on tour with DEMONCY and KRIEG through most of Western Europe in April of 2004. Since then, things slowed down a lot for ABAZAGORATH, with only 2 gigs in 2005 - one with NECROPHAGIA and one with INQUISITION and BAHIMIRON - and we haven't played live since then... At the height of FUNEBRARUM's activity in 2000, we played about 6 shows that year with bands like MAYHEM, MORTICIAN, HATE ETERNAL, EXHUMED, NILE, CRUCIFIER, NUN SLAUGHTER and more... Since then, we have played live very seldom. There was one show in 2006 with DEMILICH and MUCUPURULENT and one in 2007 with DEAD INFECTION. There are always offers, but they usually seem to come at a bad time for us... We were actually planning to do a European tour with INTERMENT in August of 2007 that would have concluded with an appearance at the Party San Fest in Germany, but we had to cancel the venture due to things falling through regarding the recording of the new album. There was a Metal Festival in 2000 in New York City at the legendary CBGBs where ABAZAGORATH, FUNEBRARUM and even EVOKEN got to play together... It was pretty cool - just like a night hanging out with the boys, but with a packed club and a bunch of other cool bands playing, too!!! HAHA!! It's probably tough to single out the very best gigs, but for FUNEBRARUM it might have been our second show at a club called Castle Heights in Queens, NY. We were direct support for MORTICIAN and when we played we had a totally sick atmosphere: the fog machine had completely smoked up the entire room and the only lighting was provided by the strobe lights we had set up behind the drums... Once we started to play, we fucking destroyed that place!!! The minute we were done, kids were lining up in front of the stage like ravenous fiends looking to buy demo tapes!!! Another big FUNE-highlight was when we opened up for MAYHEM at the Wetlands in New York City for their first area appearance.

We kind of felt we had "made it" or something... ABAZAGORATH has had some killer shows as well. I think I like the ones where we got to destroy some shit the best... Smashed chairs + shattered beer bottles + holes punched in ceilings + some blood dripping from gashes in Nihilist's chest = good fucking fun!! The European tour kind of stands out as the "best of the best," with cool crowds of die hard maniacs at the shows, late night drinking sessions, a couple of minor altercations and a trip to the red light district!!! HAHA!! But getting to perform with legends like MARDUK, IMPALED NAZARENE, DESTROYER 666, DEICIDE, ENSLAVED and PROFANATICA were meaningful and important moments for us as well...

BLOODY HELL! Those are mostly well known and cult bands! How come that you had the opportunities to play (is seems) only with such big bands?

Well, there are also plenty of lesser known bands that we have shared the stage with as well. But then again, also lots of other recognized acts that I didn't even mention above!! We have been really fortunate in this area, as we were never the guys that were always sending promo packs out to clubs and begging venues for a shot to play. Early on, we managed to make connections with people that were looking to set up extreme Metal gigs so we usually ended up being offered these opportunities rather than seeking them out ourselves. Even with ABAZAGORATH's Euro tour, a friend helped us by paying for our flights and making the connections with the tour manager who set everything up for us. We only had a few cases where we had to do annoying shit like selling tickets for the shows were playing and in a few of those cases, when we played with a band like MARDUK, we were able to sell loads of them. Having been able to play shows in Europe, I do have to say that conditions for live bands are much better there. Over here the clubs and promoters don't give fuck who you are, but in Europe we were treated a lot better most of the time.

And how is the European crowd vx the US crowd? Where have you performed in front of a bigger crowd usually? Who are crazier when it comes to violent behavior during Metal shows?

I would say the main difference between US and European fans has to do with the level of dedication. I think that more of the European Metalheads "get it." That's not to say that there aren't die hard maniacs here in the US, but I think that overall Extreme Metal is much more accepted in Europe. And I think that this shapes the attitudes of the fans over there. I've been fortunate to have played to some big crowds both here and overseas, and also unfortunate to have played to some mostly empty rooms, too!! HAHA!! One that really stands out is when ABAZAGORATH opened up for DEICIDE and MARDUK at L'Amours in Brooklyn, NY in 2001. That place was jam packed!! Honestly, I have yet to perform for an audience that gets violent enough for my tastes!! HAHA!!

The cover artworks used for Funebrarum's releases were made by very respective and talented artists (Dan Seagrave and Chris Moyon), who created some of the most amazing artworks for many classic Black & Death Metal bands, while Abazagorath's covers look way less impressive in my opinion. How important is the cover artwork for you? Give some examples of your favorite artist and artworks please.

Yeah, we have been fortunate to have been able to use art by Moyon and Seagrave. The Moyon piece for the INTERMENT split was paid for by the label. In the case of the Seagrave art for the "Dormant Hallucination" 7", which I am sure was quite expensive, we really lucked out. Originally, that EP was going to be a split with Midnight 666 label-boss Wes "Blackwulf" Rhodes' project CADAVERIZER which was also going to be made up of KAM LEE (MASSACRE) and Matt and Col from EXHUMED. Wes had commissioned the Seagrave piece for their side of the split. CADAVERIZER never actually got together, so Wes let us have the 7" by ourselves and graciously donated his artwork!! Fucking Hell of a nice gesture, we think!!! Anyway, I think this particular piece ranks as one of his all time best, so we are psyched we could use it. As the 7" material is included on the Nuclear War Now LP version of "Beneath the Columns of Abandoned Gods," a big poster depicting this cover is included. But I have to say I think you have your head up your ass regarding ABAZAGORATH's artwork... We've used some kick ass pieces there too... I guess you have not seen the Desmond Sia illustrations that we used on the "Enshrined Blasphemer" MCD / t-shirts or Dave Carson's pieces for the "Ancient Entities Arise" split CD with BLOODSTORM. All this stuff is awesome in our opinions, and that's what I think matters the most... Most of the art and layouts for both groups are capably handled by our very own Daryl, who has vast experience and a wealth of natural talent in art and graphic design.

And wait to see what he has in store for "The Sleep of Morbid Dreams." He has successfully depicted the very essence of Dark, Menacing, Horrible Death Metal to its rotten bones!! He also does loads of logos, artworks and layouts for different bands and labels like CEMETERY URN, Necroharmonic Productions, etc. As any real Metal-fan will tell you, album artwork is very important. I think the cover art should give you a mental image of what the record will sound like. Some great examples would be most of the early IRON MAIDEN covers by Derek Riggs, Larry Carroll's "Reign in Blood," Ed Repka's "Scream Bloody Gore," Kent Mathieu's original art for "Severed Survival," Drew Elliott's art for "Season of the Dead," the covers for "Apocalyptic Raids," "Pleasure to Kill," "In the Sign of Evil," and even simple stuff like the first BATHORY album, VENOM's "Welcome to Hell" and "Black Metal" or POSSESSED's "Seven Churches" – nothing complex yet very effective...

Do you know/like any Israeli Metal bands?

I am really not familiar with much Israeli Metal. I have heard about SALEM and ORPHANED LAND but have never actually heard them. I have heard some stuff from MELECHESH (Do they qualify as Israeli Metal??) and TANGORODRIM that was pretty cool, but so far just a couple of songs from each of them

You better check out SALEM's "KADDISH", I bet you gonna enjoy this piece of morbid DEATH/DOOM! MELECHASH Left IsraHell a decade or so ago, so it's up to you to decide whether they're Israeli, Palestinian, Sumerian, Russian or Dutch band, haha! TANGORODRIM is criminally underrated in my opinion, I recommend that you check their stuff more in depth, and Hell Darkness as well!

Thanks for the tips!!

Please give a list of your favorite 10 Metal albums EVER!

That's a pretty tall order for me to cut it down to a top ten. I ended up breaking it down into the albums that proved to be "seachanges" in my life, changing how I perceived music.... Some of these records scared the shit out of me the first time I heard them, others made me want to sing along, play air guitar and head-bang, others made me laugh my ass off, and they all warped my spirit and brain forever... They are all timeless classics and they are why I am still proud to be a Metalhead at age 38!!! And if SPINAL TAP can turn their amps up to "11," I can make it a "Top 11 List."

METALLICA – Master of Puppets
BLACK SABBATH – Paranoid
IRON MAIDEN – Live After Death
(tie) SLAYER – Reign in Blood / Hell Awaits
(tie) S.O.D. – Speak English or Die / M.O.D. – U.S.A for M.O.D.
DARKTHRONE – A Blaze in the Northern Sky
MORBID ANGEL – Altars of Madness
SODOM – In the Sign of Evil
BATHORY – Bathory
NECROPHAGIA – Season of the Dead
NAPALM DEATH - From Enslavement to Obliteration

For me, it could be more like a top 100 because it seems like a crime to omit albums like "Melissa," "Abigail," "Apocalyptic Raids," "Morbid Tales," "Bonded By Blood," "Kill 'Em All," "Symphonies of Sickness," "Severed Survival," "Horriified," "Realms of Chaos," "De Mysteriis Dom Sathanas," etc.

Yeah, I know that it was a hard question for a lifelong Metal maniac, haha! As far as I know – you're also a big fan of H.P. LOVECRAFT's stuff (me too!), aren't you? Please gimme a list of some of your favorite stories written by this genius writer and other books that you'd like to recommend to headbangers worldwide!

Yeah, I am a fiend for Lovecraft's other-worldly literature!! In fact, I have taken my Black Metal pseudonym from my favorite character of his writings, Nyarlathotep. I have read a lot of his stuff, most of it more than once. Some of the all time greats would be "The Call of Cthulu," "The Dunwich Horror," and "The Shadow Over Innsmouth." I just picked up a pretty nice graphic novel adaptation called "H.P. Lovecraft's Haunts of Horror" that is beautifully illustrated by Richard Corben. I also enjoy the "Cthulu Mythos" inspired works of Robert E. Howard, Ramsey Campbell, Stephen King and Robert Bloch (who fleshed out the Nyarlathotep character really well!). I would recommend for other Metalheads to read as many underground print zines as possible. They may as well start with "Evil's Best!" HAHA!! I really love collecting fanzines, whether they are glossy and pro-printed or cut and paste and photocopied!!! It is a dying art form it seems, so I applaud anybody still dedicated to the craft... Over the years, it was often in the fanzines where I first read about some great bands, demos and albums!!-

Any last words of darkness and unholiness?

I just want to tell everybody to look out for the new FUNEBRARUM CD / LP, "The Sleep of Morbid Dreams," which will be released really fucking soon!! We're fucking proud of it and we think it will kick your ass!! Also, all Europeans need to be warned that I will be laying waste to your continent with EVOKEN from April 4th – 18th. Come down to a gig, head-bang and let's have a few beers!!! Anyone interested in additional info on FUNEBRARUM, ABAZAGORATH or EVOKEN can drop me a line at abazagorath69@hotmail.com. We've got a bunch of stuff for sale (split CDs, LPs, patches, stickers, etc.), so feel free to ask about what we've got in stock!! Each band also has some shit on MySpace, so give it a look & listen if you are curious!!

Sergei, thanks a lot for your questions and I will be looking forward to seeing the new issue of "Evil's Best." The last one was killer!!!

Hail Satan, Worship Death, Praise Bloodshed & Fornicate with the deceased!!! Stay Crazy & Stay Metal, kids!!!

Haha, thanks! Best(ial) regards!



Contact: abazagorath69@hotmail.com,

I knew about Heretic's existence, but their totally Beherit-ripped logo never made me want to give them a chance, simply because I hate Beherit. Fortunately I got their last album as bonus in a trade, which simply blew me away (see review in this issue). I felt compelled to interview them, and here is the result:

Hi Thomas! How are you there? So have you found Jesus? ;-)

Hailsssss, doing fine over here, damn busy with great new plans concerning HERETIC. No, sorry, I didn't find Jesus... But I didn't know you lost him either hahahaha

I've never even seen him, haha! Anyway, since HERETIC seems to be absolutely unknown in IsraHell, please give a brief bio of the band. It seems that the band underwent some major changes since it was formed and until now, huh?

It's a shame we are so unknown in Israel, you are missing something really worth while then!!! Well, actually there aren't that many changes that I'm aware of until now. People have always noticed the Rock N Roll attitude and vibe in our music; it's just that we finally have the possibility to express it better through a greater production. The transformation has just started, slowly we will deform into a Hardrock-Rock N Roll act more and more. But as long as the SATANic atmosphere is present, that should not matter in my opinion. That has always been the most important aspect after all....

The first thing I noticed about Heretic is the logo, which is similar to Beherit's. What's your opinion about the band's recent comeback album? What do you think in general about comebacks - is there really a need in resurrection of long gone corpses?

Yes, our logo is totally stolen from Beherit, but ours looks way better hahaha. There are actually people nagging about this every now and then (funny enough its always Dutch people). But how many acts have stolen Bathory's logo? Hahahahaha! I think Beherit's comeback album is brilliant!!! Great atmosphere!!! Total darknesssssss! Well, since we just made a comeback 2 years ago, what do you think my thoughts on comebacks are? Hehe... I think IF it's an improvement on the early days of a band, it shouldn't matter. For instance Dissection.... I always thought their music was boring, but their 'comeback' album blew me away, and it's probably on one of the top spots of my fave Metal albums. But you will always have assholes that are constantly saying that everything that is older is better, no matter how great the product is. That reminds me of a great joke Tony Hellfire once made: how many metalheads do you need to change a light bulb? 2.... 1 to change the light bulb and one to say that the older one was better.

Haha! Good one, even though I don't recall many comeback albums I enjoyed MORE than the old ones... I didn't know that the band was split. Why did it occur and what motivated you to resurrect it?

The band actually split up 2 times. First was right after BMH was recorded, because there was some tension within the band and my musical taste had changed too much. Then, after DW was recorded, we split up again and I started a very commercial RNR band, which got pretty successful in Holland. After that band was terminated, i got the urge again to record something totally different and started working on a new Heretic album. One thing led to another, and now - here we are, 2 years later, in full glory.

The second easiest thing to notice about HERETIC is your Satanic lyrics. I find it hard to believe that you sacrifice virgins to the goat and perform black masses, so what does Satan mean for you?

So our goal of being wolves in sheep's clothes has been achieved hehe! It should have been the FIRST thing you noticed, since it is the most important one. That is what makes Heretic what it is. Otherwise I could just be swinging my guitar in a band like Turbonegro or Gluecifer. SATAN is real! SATAN is an entity and a force all at once. SATAN is my master, my god, my lord, my father, my savior, my reason for existence. SATAN ISETERNAL!!!!!!

So do you practice any rituals/magic/whatever?

Of course!!! I DO practice what I preach.

I must admit that I've heard only the debut and the new album and haven't listened to "Devilworshiper", so I dunno when occurred the let's call it evolution (or maybe EVILution?) that can be heard in "Gods Over Humans...", but could you tell me please what caused this major change (and if I didn't consider it a KILLER improvement - this interview would probably not be done!)? Does the fact that you haven't used any colored artworks for your albums have anything to do with this change by the way, or is it just a coincidence?

I don't believe in coincidences, there is no such thing... But that's from a spiritual point of view. I think an album cover should represent the atmosphere of a record. And I think we achieved that with these releases. I don't see it as evolution; we just do what the fuck we like. Of course "Gods..." would have sounded different if it was recorded only a year after Devilworshiper, instead of a 6 year break in between, but our goal is to create a totally different album with each release. I don't see any sense in recording another album like Gods or Devilworshiper or Black Metal Holocaust.

It has been done, and now I wanna see what we can do next. I already know how the new Motorhead album will sound like, because it's the exact same thing every time. I don't see any fun in that, not for the band and not for the maniacs.

So what are your plans for the near future about Heretic? Are you already working on the next release?

Yes, the new album is already finished in my head. In November we will start working out the ideas. I don't wanna say anything about the ideas for it, but like I said in the previous question - it will be different again. There are only 2 constant factors in HERETIC: most important > THE SATANIC ATMOSPHERE and second THE ROCK N ROLL VIBE.

I couldn't change them even if I wanted to, because they are part of what I am.

And what musical genres are you listening to these days? Is there usually a big difference between the stuff you listen to and the stuff you play?

For the last 10 years my musical taste has been very wide. In some genres there is a gigantic difference in what I listen to and what I perform myself. But also everything I listen to finds its way in some form into HERETIC.

How did your cooperation with KNEEL BEFORE THE MASTER'S THRONE start? Are you planning to keep having your stuff released through Denis' label?

KBTMT contacted us after only a few weeks when the MySpace was up and running and offered us the best deal to re-release the Black Metal Holocaust album. We were so pleased with their work that we decided to release our 3rd album Gods over Humans, Slaves under Satan also under their banner. We have always worked with various labels, and will continue to do so in the future. So of course we will do some more stuff through KBTMT as well. Dennis and Anja are true maniacs and they always give 200% to get the best result product wise and make something special out of it.

Totally agreed about that! Are you a records collector yourself by the way? What's the LP you're most glad to have and the "holy grail" you'd like to hunt the most?

I used to be a real collector. But then I got sick of the materialistic side and gave or sold everything away. Now I only have some records that are just killer albums from start to the end. There is no record out there that I am hunting for and there is no single record that I am glad to have.

It seems that you're very inspired by GG Allin (me too!), judging by the song Mr. Chainsaw. So who was he in your opinion? A reincarnation of JC? A Messiah? The ultimate god of Rock N' Roll?

GG's music was one of many inspirations for what we do with HERETIC. GG was not the subject of the Mr. Chainsaw though. The song was written 6 years ago and is about Melek Taus. Since his lifestyle and look are similar to GG's, I decided to use the intro & outro of GG ALLIN. Especially the outro describes Melek Taus' lifestyle perfectly. Personally I think GG Allin as a person was great, good songwriter and really adventurous living life to the max. I envy his non-materialistic lifestyle the most. As far as the stage-act goes, I think it was a brilliant gimmick, nothing more.

Melek Taus? Who's that?...

Haha, too little time to explain that. In a few words... Black magician no. 1 / more extreme and insane than GG Allin.

Even more? WOW! Hehe... By the way - why is "The Devil, My Savior" considered as a bonus track? Because it's a demo version. We didn't have time to record it properly, but we wanted it to be on the album, because it just seems to fit in with the rest of the material. Don't know if we will ever record a decent version, because everyone seems to like this one and you never know which direction we will go with the next album.

Totally agreed, for me it's the highlight of the album! Do you perform live a lot? What's your favorite place and bands to play with and how is the Metal scene in Holland nowadays in general in your opinion? We haven't performed live a lot, but we are planning to do this more often though.

Favourite place will always be Helvete Club in Oberhausen, Germany! I don't care with which bands we perform, but it's always a joy to share the stage (and the backstage) with good personal friends like The Devils Blood or Nox. The Dutch scene sucks! I hate performing in Holland and try to avoid this as much as possible. Clubs are fucking arrogant towards bands and the crowd mostly thinks they're too evil to bang their heads or give any sort of enthusiastic response.

You guys seem to have tons of tattoos on your bodies. Could you please introduce any of the pictures you decided to go the grave with? Are any of them related to Metal (favorite albums artworks etc.)?

Maybe a good question for Tony Hellfire, since he is a professional tattoo-artist. I simply don't care that much for my tattoos... I do have some in honor of my master SATAN, but I don't think it's necessary to have them. The only band-related tattoos I have are the infamous DANZIG skull and VENOM's Welcome to Hell.

How do you usually promote your stuff? You've never been signed in a major label like Roadrunner, as far as I'm concerned...

We never did anything for promotion really. It's all mouth to mouth I guess. So imagine what the opportunities are hahaha. Well, we did sign to a label now, that is gonna do everything to promote us across the world in a decent way.

And now it's the time for you to give a list of your favorite 10 Metal albums EVER! The very ones you're planning to go to Hell with, hehe!

I don't intend to take any earthly pleasures like music with me to the kingdom of SATAN. And my 10 fave albums of all time won't include a single Metal album at all!

But if you want to know specifically which 10 Metal albums I like the most for the time being here - In no particular order :

BARATHRUM's Legions Of Perkele, DISSECTION's Reinkaos, VENOM's Singles 1980-1985, HELLHAMMER's Triumph Of Death, IRON MAIDEN's Life After Death, DANZIG's Lucifuge, MERCYFUL FATE's Melissa, MANOWAR's Hail To England, KISS' Alive 1 + 2, ABRUPTUM's Satanist Tunes

Any last words to me/readers/Satan?
PRAISE SATAN!!!

Contact: www.myspace.com/hereticmaniacs

I found their myspace profile the day it was opened by accident, and the song SPEEDBIKER drew my attention immediately. Fortunately I worked slowly enough on this issue, so they already released a killer demo, performed a lot and nowadays they're one of the better traditional Metal bands in Germany for me! Bow to the cult of the snake!

Hi Kivi! How are you these days? Please introduce Iron Kobra to Evil's Best readers!

Hi, at the moment I'm quite busy getting our next record mixed and the vocals still have to be recorded as well. We are Iron Kobra, a bunch of Metal Maniacs, playing music in the style of good old barbaric Heavy Metal. We have Sir Serpent swinging his axe and shouting his furious battle cries, Commander Conda pounding on the drums of doom, Don Viper shaking the land of the free with his bass of devastation and finally me, shredding around and trying to sing ☺

When I finally got a chance to see Kreator in Israel and meet the band - I asked Vantor about the K in the band's title. His answer was "It means Creator (=God), but different". What's your excuse for misspelling the name of the poor animal in the band's name?

After all, perhaps some people know the drum pedal called "Iron Cobra". We always thought that's a fucking great name, but we did not want a total rip off, so we changed it, and in Germany its spelled "Kobra", so we thought it fits well this way.

Not as komplikated as I expekted it to be, hehe. If I didn't know what I was listening to when I got your demo - I would be sure it's some obscure old Japanese band from the 80's. Why did you choose to take the influences from this culture and not any other one?

We are all big fans of Japanese pop culture, as well as historic culture. We love i.e. Godzilla and all those great old Japanese video games. And after all, samurai and ninjas are just cool as Hell. We didn't really decide to take all this into the band, it simply came this way. Suddenly we had Ronin, a song about an abandoned samurai; there we had Fist of Fury, a song about Bruce Lee, and next thing we decided to use was a Rising Sun as a backdrop, hehe...

Japanese pop culture? Do you mean music? How does it differ from the MTV stuff?

No, with pop culture I don't mean Japanese pop music, hehe. I'm talking about those Godzilla like stuff, exaggerated TV shows and commercials, as well as some hilarious video games or anime series. Have a good example for it, Yakitate Japan, an anime series about bread making. The idea itself is so stupid, just awesome!

Hehe... Since "Cult of the Snake" sounded mature and professionally done for a new band for me, I'd like to ask you how old the band members are and whether any of you have played or still play in any other bands. And what do you guys do in your everyday lives, apart from playing Metal?

Sir Serpent and Don Viper both are 20. Our drummer Commander Conda is 24 (I think). I'm 22. The others don't play in any other band, but I for instance play in the Death/Doom Metal Band Warhammer as well (next album will be release via Dying Victims as well!) We're all going to university (or at least are going to go there in the near future).

Fvkk yeah! I'm a big Hellhammer maniac and I worship Warhammer as well and have almost everything this band ever released! So how is it to be a part of such a killer band? I like the new Warhammer's album a lot as well. Are you satisfied with how this new album "No Beast So Fierce" came out?

I think every band says those things, but our singer Volker told me, this is the best and most extreme sounding Warhammer album ever ;) At the moment things are really well. They had some line up changes in the past, before me taking the position of the guitarist and since that, now everything fits really well in the band I'd say. Warhammer haven't started making Power Metal or so ;) Still the same raw and doomy riffs, together with Volker's Hellhammer like shouts with morbid and dark lyrics.

I'm really excited (as we are all) about how the people will react towards the new release.

Let's go back to Iron Kobra now! Recently you invaded Italy and shared the stage with the legendary TANK! A demo band playing abroad is something I'm not used to see that often. I guess that now it's easier and cheaper to cross borders and move inside the EU, isn't it? Please tell about this event. How did you get booked in the lineup? How was the gig itself? Can you please tell any interesting or funny memories from the trip?

Crossing border inside the EU isn't a problem after all. The costs were quite okay as well; after all, we took a whole bus with 50 German Metal maniacs with us!

I have some friends in Italy and one of them has told the organizers of the festival about Iron Kobra. So they looked out for another foreign underground band and they thought Iron Kobra would fit well into their concept. The gig itself was totally great, the Italians moshing around like crazy (very different from German concerts)! We had a great stage and the crowd in front of it was awesome.

There are a couple of funny memories left, but definitely the best was on the way back home, sitting in the bus with the other Germans and singing "Das eine Lied von Otto über Alkohol" for many hours. But I think you must be German to understand ;)

Talking about gigs in Germany, I recently watched Warhammer's LIVE MASSACRE DVD and was surprised to see hardly a few dozens of maniacs standing like frozen, a few (probably band's friends) banging their heads and the band standing on the stage and hardly even banging their heads. Is that the norm there? Why don't you organize some crazy mosh pits? (That's the norm here)

At that time I wasn't in Warhammer yet, but I've seen the DVD. Not the best example for a German concert I'd say hehe...

We sometimes have really great crowds, moshing around and banging their heads, stage diving and all the stuff. Other times it's like on the DVD. Always depends on the people.

But at the Raging Death Date Festivals in Germany, for example, we had a totally awesome crowd full of maniacs, both with Iron Kobra, and Warhammer.

You demo got released on tape by the new label Dying Victims. Are you satisfied with the way it came out? Does it sell well? Were the responses so far as good as the one I wrote, hehe?

Flo did a great job, especially since it was his first release. Thanks a lot! Really great release and the die hard was killer. We already sold our copies and I think Flo as well has close to zero copies left. Got all great reactions, some nearly as good as yours hehe...

Talking about Flo... I guess you met Florian through his great Thrash Attack zine. Considering the totally oldschool sound and image (I never understood the point of wearing spandex, but it's definitely EXTREME for the days we live in, haha!), I'm pretty sure that you still support printed underground fanzines. Which ones have you read recently and would like to recommend? Do you think that it's better to promote the band through the internet, where it's like another drop in an endless stream, or small but dedicated Xeroxed zines that are mostly bought by the most devoted supporters of the true spirit of Metal, but not spread so easily and fast as in the virtual world?

Yeah, Flo is a good friend of us and he's doing a great job with his zine. Another great zine comes from the Netherlands, called Violent Moshground. Really obscure written, but made with lots of passion! I'm not one who is against the internet. It's great and it's a great opportunity for bands to become famous in their music scene. There's a lot of shit out there as well but as you can listen to it directly, you're able to decide fast whether it's shitty or not. I like fanzines, but mostly for the pleasure of reading a magazine on not reading something on the screen. If there's an interesting review about a band I don't know, I can just go to the computer and look on Myspace and perhaps be able to listen to something by them in just some seconds. So I don't see any competition between internet and zines, they are best when combined! But after all, it's always an honor to read something about your band on printed paper.

Agreed, and yeah, Marco makes some killer job with Violent Moshground for sure! Since you're a Germaniac Japanophiliac (genius description, isn't it?), I feel compelled to ask you what you think about the way the new Metalucifer's album "Heavy Metal Bulldozer" was issued. What do you think about the weird idea of recording the same songs by 2 lineups? How does the idea of Metalucifer without Gezol sound to you?

The idea is really interesting I think, but I must admit I only own the version with the German line-up. Really love the CD, but at least the production isn't my favourite, much too loud for me, so I got tired of the CD quite fast. I'M SURE THE JAPANESE VERSIONS WON'T HAVE THIS PROBLEM! So I really hope to get the version with Japanese vocals some day.

And now it's time for you to give a list of 10 favorite Metal releases!

I just drop them, no order:

Manowar - Everything until and including Sign of the Hammer
 THOR - Only the Strong
 Running Wild - Port Royal
 Rainbow - Rising
 Manilla Road - Crystal Logic
 Metallica - Kill'em All
 Tokyo Blade - Night of the Blade
 Formel 1 - Live im Stahlwerk
 Def Leppard - On through the night
 Great White - Once bitten



We've come to the end. Any last (s)words to me/the readers/the world?
 Crom laughs at your four winds! He laughs from his mountain!

Anata ga shitakato subete wo nik undeimasu!

Contact: Kevin Witte / Schlenkhoffstraße 13/45894 Gelsenkirchen / Germany,
www.myspace.com/cultofthesnake

I was in contact with Gabriel before the band was formed and do my best to support this killer Death/Thrash beast called RIOTOR to this day. For those who haven't read my reviews of their demos in the 2nd issue or haven't heard their music yet, here is an interview with this crazy Canadian mapiak!

Hi Gab! How are you there? Unleash some information about RIOTOR to the masses!

METALIZED HAILS SERGEI!!!

RIOTOR is fucking busy these days! For those unfamiliar with us, we forge an extreme Thrash/Death Metal and hail from Quebec City, (French) Canada. We have two killer demos (DEATH AND DESTRUCTION and FUCKING METAL) under our bullet belts that made their way pretty well through the underground, we're a hard working horde and you will hear from us in the future! Let's now concentrate on updates about release and live riots!

The tape version of our 2 demos was just released through TERROR BLAST Productions from Macedonia (Darko from VAMPIR zine)! Pure underground release, done with the best spirit and a cheap way to get both demos!

The saw shaped live cd planned by GROUND ZERO Entertainment will be out by the very beginning of September. The live riot featured will be our first headlining gig in March 08, so it's quite old already, but will be an interesting thing to own, to hear how the band used to sound like live in the very beginning. It includes 3 live songs, which will most likely all end on the album as well: Void of Emptiness, Story of Blood and Poser Hunt. The packaging will be most killer for the die hard version: a saw shaped cd (as every version) also a red logo t-shirt, a patch, a sticker, a killer shaped metal pin, a band pic and the flyer of the gig, all packed in a wooden box!

The 7" split planned with TALION (Sweden) is finally all recorded and mixed; it will be called NUCLEAR SOLUTION and will feature a new version of this song, as well as an outstanding artwork from our own Ismarevil! Will be released by the Italian maniac behind DREAM EVIL Records, who's also responsible for the recent SABBAT/METALUCIFER split!

We have a live ritual planned with almighty BLASPHEMY on October 3rd in Montreal!!! It's a big honour for us to open for this cult band. Also, will be there our metal brothers from DEATHRONER and WAR COMMAND. I heard people will come from as far as Finland and Poland to witness this event!!! Other live riots are planned with bands such as PILEDRIVER, SOOTHSAYER, NO PITY, PESTROYER and TWILIGHT HAMMER among others!

We're also starting our own distro, will be called SPEED MERCHANT and will feature extra stuff we get in trades. By the time the zine is out you'll be able to see the list on our official site riotor.ca, expect a killer underground selection! By the way, the logo was done by Milovan of AVR label/ZAPISNIK zine, which contributed in EVIL'S BEST first issue (and hopefully will in this one too!).

We are working on our debut LP BEAST OF RIOT, which we'll begin to record the week right after the BLASPHEMY rape! It will feature some of our new songs, such as Pagan Curse, Religicide, Metal Oath and Sextasy... easily some of our best material, as well as killer demo songs, it will CRUSH. A release in the first half of 2010 is aimed!

Damn! You gptta have very tight schedule there nowadays! Great to hear you share the stage with the legendary Soothsayer! Do you have any time left for anything else apart from the band these days?

Of course, we go to rehearsal 2 times a week and take care of post office, interviews and stuff like that in our spare time. Obviously we all have jobs, Ismarevil is a taxi driver, Stefanatic is a machinist, Kevinator is a cook, Mikalcoholic is a printer and I'm an history student in university (working some shit jobs as well). In the best world we would only play metal but I think it isn't realistic, especially with the kind of dirty steel we forge!

Do you write all the stuff together or is there 1 main writer in the band?

The guitarists (Kevinator and me) write most of the stuff. DEATH AND DESTRUCTION was written all between me and him with Mikalcoholic participating only some riffs on Void of Emptiness. FUCKING METAL is more of a band work I'd say. Mikalcoholic wrote 2 songs for it while I wrote the remaining 4 with Kevinator having a major input in structures and lots of riffs in almost all songs. Stefanatic and Ismarevil add their parts as soon as we have the core of a song. We work all together to make the songs more interesting.

Your debut demo already showed much professionalism and doesn't sound amateur. How often do you practice together and how was it recorded?

We usually rehearse together 2 times a week but play at home as well. I for one play everyday for at least an hour. Being with old experienced bastards such as Stefanatic and Kevinator surely helps a lot too for sounding more professional. They have experience that the rest of the band doesn't have as they were playing from 1992 to 2007 with TRAUMATISM, a death/grind band. DEATH AND DESTRUCTION was released something like 6 months after the band was created, the goal at first was to record our 6 first songs to hear what we sound like/help us to play the songs better. We were pleased enough, so we decided to release it. The progression between this demo and FUCKING METAL speaks for itself. You'll hear again on the 7" and the album. Everything we recorded so far was done by Kevinator. He rented mics and put his experience into it. For the album we plan to record the drums pro and then record everything else as we have done with the demos, will give a killer result.

So how were the drums recorded until now? Did you record it yourselves in the rehearsal room?

Yeah exactly! We rent mics and Kev does the job of engineering. It is great because it is a relaxed atmosphere so we can take our time, there's no stress. We're going to record the drums pro as I said but we know well the producer (Jack of MESRINE) so I think the plan is that we're going to take 4 days at Stefanatic's house to record in mid October. We would like to record everything analogue but our budget simply can't afford it and digital is way easier.

I read that the artwork for the 2nd demo was drawn by Riotor's vokiller. It looks really impressive and not cheap! Did he make any other artworks for other bands? Who made the artwork for the Death and Destruction?

Ismarevil has done the DEATH AND DESTRUCTION artwork as well as our logo. The artwork from DAD is in fact like 5 m. X 3 meters high... It is really big. Soon the 7" split with TALION will feature one of his paintings too. He is a really skilled artist and has done studies in art in university, but he's a bit too lazy to work with other bands. He'll paint the cover for the upcoming LP as well!

Wow, 3 X 5 meters is fuckin' HUGE! Anyway, as you said, you're going to unleash a live album on a killer shape CD through Ground Zero Entertainment. Is it going to be a disposable deal or do you have any plans about further partnership, like releasing a full length album?

As for the possible future cooperation with GZE we will see how it goes with this release, how Matt will promote and distribute it, he seems like a very dedicated maniac that strongly believes in the band, but does everything his way. We don't want to sign with anyone so far, we shop and get more offers then pick up the best one is the goal. I think we'll record it, and then send it to potential labels, we already have pretty good offers but this will be more convincing than FUCKING METAL so it should get us better offers.

Talking about live performances - please describe the situation when it comes to your local Metal scene. Are there many good gigs there (both small and bigger ones, both local and foreign bands)? You shared the stage with famous acts like Piledriver and Brutal Truth already. Was it hard to book such shows?

I believe the scene in the Province of Quebec is the best in Canada. We have a great share of gigs both from the biggest metal bands like METALLICA, IRON MAIDEN or SLAYER but we also smaller ones such as KREATOR, DESTRUCTION, SODOM, TESTAMENT, OBITUARY, VADER and all the load of shit of other bands their size you can imagine. We sometimes also get pure underground headliners such as BLASPHEMY, PILEDRIIVER, RAZOR, EXCITER, ANVIL, SABBAT, BARBATOS, TOXIC HOLOCAUST (back a few years), BRUTAL TRUTH, KRISIUN or IMPALED NAZARENE. Of course there are great local gigs with the likes of NO PITY, DEATHRONER, SACCAGE, ABUSOR, SKIN SLICER (RIP), METALIAN, WAR COMMAND and others. We can't complain at all I guess.

It wasn't hard at all to play with PILEDRIIVER or BRUTAL TRUTH, the promoter simply contacted us and we agreed. We will play in 2 days (August 29th) on a fest together with PILEDRIIVER, SOOTHSAYER, NO PITY, PESTROYER and ANONYMUS among others... It will be an awesome party! Old Piley will join us on stage for a killer version of our song Poser Hunt!!! Can't fucking wait!!! We will also play with him again in Toronto in November with Toronto black thrashing maniacs TWILIGHT HAMMER! Also, as I previously said, we're also going to share the stage with mighty BLASPHEMY in October! This is going to KILL.

Talking about Blasphemy and "War Metal" in general (not my cup of tea, to be honest)... I've noticed that there are many bands with this attitude and image coming from absolutely neutral countries when it comes to wars, such as Australia (Bestial Warlust for example) and ov korpse Canada (Blasphemy, Revenge etc.). What's the reason for this phenomenon in your opinion?

Maybe it's the aggression that's not unleashed in real war in those countries! Hehe... honestly I have no clue. Bands in this style are now everywhere in the world as well but I think the south American and the Canadian scene are the most notorious. I don't really know what to think about this brand of metal, sometimes it is done in a killer way and devastates for example BLASPHEMY, MORBOSIDAD or BLASPHEMOPHAGER but other times I just can't get it, I don't like what I heard from REVENGE at all for example.

I know that you also played on the Morbid Tales 6 release party. Have you tried to cook anything from the "Hell Bent for Cooking" section?

Not yet hehe... I should try sometime! Satannick is working on a full recipe book right now, so maybe I'll wait for that to try something! Did you!? It is an interesting idea she had, she's a really excited and devoted person by the way, cool girl to be around and as metal as it gets!

Are there many other good fanzines in your area you could recommend?

Unfortunately there is no serious underground zine other than MORBID TALES, it is really a shame that Satannick calls it quit (at least for a while). We used to have LEATHER AND SPIKES but it is dead for a while now. There's a french magazine active called ARSENIC but it focuses on any kind of "metal"... It's not the same spirit as MORBID TALES, LEATHER AND SPIKES or let's say EVIL'S BEST!!! I think Satannick will have an underground corner in this more mainstream magazine in the future; at least she had one in the last issue (and talked about us!). I would like to eventually have a zine but I have no time for this now, I know how time consuming it can be and don't want to put my name of half assed shit. All my time for metal is dedicated to RIOTOR.

Now give me a list of your 10 all time favorite Metal to the bone albums!

I'll limit myself to one album per band and decided to give 15... no particular order.

DESASTER – Tyrants of the Netherworld
DEATH – Spiritual Healing
SARCOFAGO – INRI
DESTRUCTION – Infernal Overkill
RAZOR – Evil Invaders
SACRIFICE – Forward to Termination
DESTROYER 666 – Unchain the Wolves
SLAYER – Hell Awaits
AGENT STEEL – Skeptics Apocalypse
TESTAMENT – The Legacy
NIFELHEIM – Devil's Force
SODOM – Persecution Mania
MERCILESS – The Awakening
KREATOR – Terrible Certainty
PESTILENCE – Malleus Maleficarum

Any last words before you become too famous to keep answering interviews for small D.I.Y. fanzines, hehe?

Well thanks a lot for the interview Sergei; it is great to have maniacs as you to support the real underground! RIOTOR will never refuse any interview from a dedicated maniac like you! Our goal isn't to become the next big thing but rather to play pure FUCKING METAL!!! Remember METAL won't ever let you down, anything else can!!!

LIVE FOR STEEL – DIE FOR STEEL!!!

Gabrielhell

Well said, DTP!

Contact: 80-302 Hermine / Quebec, QC G1K 819 / Canada, www.riotor.ca

It's really a pleasure to see that those who get in touch with me because of the zine also happen to play in killer bands, and this is one of these cases – Juan Carlos aka Morbid Devastator is the vokiller/bassassin the killer Peruvian band Death Invoker! Check this interview and the review I wrote in the previous issue and write him a letter and support this 666% Metal Maniac!

Hi Juan Carlos! How are you nowadays? What evil Metal tape is blasting from your speakers as you're answering this interview?

Hails Sergei, how is the fucking IsraHell there?

Well, listen, some of the last tapes I got are from Communion from Chile and Blacker from Peru. I think really both are 2 bestial acts of underground Metal: The first, Communion comes from the hermetic and radical scene in Chile, from people of Proselytism; and the second one, Blacker, is from a place in Lima city called Comas, which is a bit similar to his radical conceptions about Metal and the real underground status in matter, since they have a very sectaries circle in Lima. Usually bands from Comas don't play in Lima, and they form a real hermetic scene. The speakers are sounding loud while I'm replying this!!!

Gotta check out these COMMUNION indeed! Anyway, please introduce death invoker to those who are still not familiar with this project!

Death Invoker is an underground Metal act, focused on the raw, violent and obscure sounds. We started in 2005 and recorded many rehearsals with the goal to make a demo reh; however we could not make this at that time, due to some fucking troubles with the sound. After that, we decided to record it in a studio by tracks; it is near to come.

Really i think both kinds of recordings have pros and contras. Even if actually our second independent release will be by tracks, I don't dispatch the reh. recordings, so maybe in the future you will have some release in this mood too. We have released a 4 way split as well, with the bands Bestial Possession, Metralla and Hell Torment. It's released in pro CD, 2 tracks per band.

We have played 4 gigs in 5 years, exactly 1 per year, and this is the mood that i consider correct. Death Invoker is not interested in playing every weekend. For me - a live ritual is an important act, and hence I prefer to play only when the time is right.

On the other hand - we're spreading promotional stuff, sending to paper zines mainly. There we got some positive reviews and got interviewed in many of them, such as Headbanger (Peru), Aquelarre (Peru), Morbid (Peru), Demons Jail (Chile), Bestial Noise (Chile), Tempestous (Chile), Cursed Excruciation (Brazil), Compendium Maleficarum (Bolivia), Call to the Infernal Fordes (Costa Rica), Circle of Destruction (USA), Orfismo (Spain), Iron Hammer (Germany), Necroscope (Poland), Forgotten Chapel (Poland), Putrefactive Effect (France), Shrunken and Mummified (Hungary), Sangwitok (Malaysia) and more, such as Evil's Best now.

Check the correct issues, if they're still available, and you will find an interview with Death Invoker in each one of these zines.

Actually for 2009, we are rehearsing 3 new tracks and have around 4 or more to be rehearsed. Just wait for our next stuff, which will be total morbid and unholy Peruvian Metal bestiality!!!!!!

Damn! I haven't even heard about some of the zines in this list! Respect! Well, since I haven't heard the split yet, I'll ask about the promo I reviewed in the previous issue. "Reh-Desecrations 2005-2007" tape features only 3 songs. How many original songs do you have already written so far? Can we expect more releases in the near future?

Now we have around 8 tracks. The matter is that, as I was talking above, we wanted to release a demo – reh, but it didn't work. As we didn't want to be stopped, we recollected some reh songs and started to move stuff: reh desecrations. As I told before, we're finishing mixing our upcoming demo; it should be 85% or 90% to be ready.

Apart of this, we are rehearsing new song for some other upcoming release!

And how many copies of that tape have you spread? What merch is now available for sale from you?

At the beginning we wanted to spread only 33 copies of the reh-desecrations. Later we increase the amount to 66, but since it was considered by ourselves as a promo, we decided not to limit and spread as many copies as we could. I've lost the count, but for sure it's more than 200 copies, traded only.

The 4 way split cd, called "Sepulchral Noise" was released by Austral Holocaust. I'm not very sure if the label has spread a lot of copies. I think not yet, since some people in Europe or Asia keep asking me about it. If you want some 4 way CD, you can contact Death Invoker directly, I sell this CD for only 5 Euros/6\$ (+ shipping), so maybe some of you could be interested.

LTD 33? Stupid idea indeed! Leave it to bedroom BM kids and never limit good music! As far as I know - the other band's members are also involved in other bands. Have you ever played in any different project too? How long have you been shredding the (probably 1-2 out of) 4 strings?

Yes, other members are involved in other bands too.

Bestial Lust is the founder of Metralla, a Thrash Metal band from a place called Chimbote. He's also the drummer of Cobra, a Heavy Metal band from Lima, which has some people from Chimbote too (I think Bestial Lust knows some of the Cobra dudes since high school). In the past he was the drummer of the split up band called Crown of Worms too. He was in Metralla and Cobra before joining Death Invoker; I contacted him when the previous drummer Beast of Holocaust left the band.

The other guy, Unholy Perversor is also the bassist of a band called Profaner. He decided to join them while he was in Death Invoker. Actually I'm the only one who belongs only to Death Invoker, so i represent the band in 666%.

In the past, I tried to form some Death Metal band as a vocalist, but without success (not with the correct members) and I also jammed (but only in rehearsals) the Death Metal band Ritual. It was when I was learning how the fuck to play an instrument, so I could say I've been playing bass since 2004. Everything that I know is empiric only; I don't know anything about notes or any other musical knowledge. And yes!!! I play only the 4th and the 3rd strings, no more! And there's no need for more for the style that I play in Death Invoker, which is only savage, bestial Metal from Peru! (I have composed other more "technical" tunes, but for a personal satisfaction only).

Same here, haha! I asked just because recently I got the 2nd string torn and thought to myself "why should I buy a new one, if I never use it anyway?"! And how does the tough reality in Peru influence the local Metal scene? Is it hard to find a place that accepts Metal bands when it comes to playing live or recording? Is good musical equipment like instruments and amps rare / expensive? How much does beer cost where you live?

Yes, this kind of question is usually common. I want to say that we are not in paradise maybe, but neither in the most fucked place of the world. Honestly, I think the Peruvian reality doesn't affect a lot. It depends on the economic state of the people who play in Metal bands. If they have a job, they can run the band without any problems. If they are lazy, if they never studied, never built a career or something similar, they will complain about the situations.

As for places to play, years ago it was problematic, because the local government didn't want to give the pass. I think it was due to some violent acts in some places and subterranean gigs, not really linked with Metal, but with Punk or Hardcore I think. When it comes to recording studios, well, we don't have Metal reh rooms only, except for 1 or 2, however it's possible to record in any studio with minimum of knowledge (enough open minded to think that the band would not break the instruments), or even at home. Actually technology helps here. Rehearsal rooms have average equipment. They don't want to invest a lot, but it's good enough for bestial sound. Instruments and amps cost around 300\$, which is not cheap, but if you work for a few months, you can buy a guitar, drums or bass. It's not "impossible" to get. We even have here some shops with B.C. Rich instruments, Jackson, LTD, Dean instruments that were harder to find here in the past. Beer costs around 2\$.

Glad to hear! I had a way grimmer picture of how things go there in Peru in my head. You're also running a small tape label "Evil Spirit" and a fanzine "Legion of Torture" and another member of the band is the editor of "Revelation of Doom" zine. How are these activities accepted in Peru? Do people prefer to buy your stuff, or mainly use only internet?

People simply don't care about this kind of stuff!

They want everything easy, so if internet gives them the chance - they will take it.

Maybe it's linked with economic shit (if to download everything means to earn money), but even I think that if a Metaller is really a devoted, he should earn some money to have some original stuff...

The last times I was thinking about it, I thought that maybe internet is not the one to blame, but the people themselves. Internet never puts a gun to the head of anyone and makes him not buy any official stuff anymore.

However, at least I have never been interested in spreading the stuff of Legion of Torture or Evil Spirit here in Peru. Only around 6 persons here have my zine.

Mainly I have made my Metal works to make some trades and send stuff abroad. Of course it would be great to recover the postage expenses, but selling has never been my main goal. If nobody wants to buy, it's not a real trouble for me.

Recently your comrades Anal Vomit had to cancel their tour in europe, because of some tough bureaucracy. I must say it really sucks! Was it because they're a metal band? Do many good bands come to play in Peru?

I don't know the real reason of the tour cancelation, but I was in contact with a guy from France, who is a fan of AV, and he told me that it was because of visas denegation and money. It seems that Anal Vomit should pay around 1000\$ to be able to travel. Other people say that it was only about visas; so I don't know exactly. And yes! Nowadays many well known bands come to play here! It wasn't always this way, so we are fucking glad, but now we also have "pocket pain" because of this...

This year was probably some of the best! In March Iron Maiden came here, the biggest Metal dream came true for me!!! Other bands that we had this year were Morbid Angel, Malevolent Creation, Omen, Belphegor, Kreator + Exodus... Soon (October 2009) we will have Entombed, Benediction + Obituary; and even 2 days ago the news about a gig of Metallica got published. They will open their tour in 2010 here in Peru.

Yes, it's true that some of these bands are "too big" for some and even some of them could be labeled as "Metal traitors", which really is unforgivable, but I think nobody could deny that they grew up listening to some of their tunes, so, at least here you will see some of the most "radicals" going to Metallica by example. For me at least, nothing will ever be bigger than Iron Maiden. (Maybe only Iron Maiden in 2011!!)

Damn, here the quantity of bands coming is also growing, but not the quality! Wish I could see Maiden here too! And which good local bands have you performed with? How is the Peruvian (hell) scene nowadays in general?

As I told, we aren't really interested in performing too often. Maybe, just maybe, when our next release comes out, we will start performing more frequently, but not often enough to lose the "black magic" (important things could not happen every day - every time it should be something special).

We have played with bands like Metralla, Sarām, Cadaver Incubador, Cobra, El Viejo, Blacker, Flagelum Dei, INRI, Bestial Possession, and Skull from Colombia. Actually I think some good bands are appearing here (I will comment only about sounds, because I don't know the people personally and neither their thoughts about Metal), both newer and older ones:

RIP, Non Serviam, Demoniak Slaughter, Recrucify, Blacker, Astur, Black Fire, Ritual, Evil Damn, Caligvla, Illapa, Troops of Terror, Metralla, Necrofucker, Profaner, Gore, Cobra, Penetrator Hammer...and more! You bestial bastards from all around the globe should check them out, because we have some brutal and bestial bands here!

Damn, I think I know only Anal vomit, Saram and Mortem and no other bands form that list, gotta check the others out indeed! I also know that you're a big lover of fanzines and demo tapes. Please share some recommendations of some good stuff you've recently listened to/read!

Hell fucking yes! I consider myself a Metal paper hunter and would like to have at least some issues of the most of them! I think that the real underground is on paper zines, the ones that actually nobody cares about! Here are some of the zines I have recently read: Prayerbook (Italy), Necroscope (Poland), Forgotten Chapel (Poland), Eternal Fire (France, the issue which mainly features Peruvian Metal), Satanic Malediction (Brazil), Deadhead (Malaysia), Sangwitok (Malaysia), Evil's Best, Call to the Infernal Hordes (Costa Rica), Circle of Destruction (USA), Putrefactive Effect (France), Cadaverous Smell (France), Demons Jail (Chile), Sadogoat Perversion (Peru), Revelations of Doom (Peru), Silent Death (Germany?)...

I consider a good zine informative; I think it's more important than the "visual appearance"; even though it's also a good thing, but not the principal. On the other hand, I also like the minimalistic things, just Metal info and passion, not "nice things".

Demos - I got the ones from Blacker, Necrofucker and Recrucify from Peru. As for foreign stuff, I could mention cassette stuff from bands like Abhorrot (Austria), Pathogen (Philippines), Lantern (Finland), Communion (Chile), Goat Tyrant (Poland), Merciless Crucifixion (Greece), Necros / Abnorm split (French Death Metal), Persecutor (Chile), Warlocks Voice (Finland)... and in few days i will have some demo from an Ecuadorian band called Bestial Rape!!! Also I got some cd-r EP from the local band RIP, which I consider a very good one! Check yourself, it was released by a new label called Capricorn rec. Check it, these things are easy to find in the internet, don't be fucking lazy!

Fuck, that's one Hell of a list! Thanks for all the recommendations! And now it's time for you to give a list of your favorite 10 metal releases ever!

10 is really few, but I will try to mention the most significant releases through my Metal formation, the ones which I used to listen to when I was a boy Metallor:

Sepultura - Morbid Visions/Bestial Devastation (I have both on an original tape as a split)

Massacra - Enjoy the Violence (also I could say Final Holocaust!)

Sadus - Chemical Exposure

Running Wild - Branded and Exiled

Kreator - Extreme Aggression

Iron Maiden - Piece of Mind

Cannibal Corpse - Eaten Back to Life

Ritual - Macabros Pensamientos en la Sscuridad demo

Mortem - Demon Tales

Hypocrisy - Osculum Obscenum

But 10 is really few! I'm a big fan of the 90's US Death Metal, so I could mention the 1st releases of bands like Deicide, Monstrosity, Immolation, Incantation... Also Scandinavian Death Metal, like Grave, Desultory, Demigod, Entombed... (1st releases) and the raw and bestial Metal from South American hordes like Death Yell, Atomic Aggressor, Sadism, Undercroft, Sarcófago, Mutilator, Vulcano, Ossuary, Taurus, Dorsal Atlantica, Masacre (Col)... Also US stuff: like Possessed, Slayer, Death, Sadistic Intent... Other European acts like Thanatos, Pestilence and Sinister, as well as classic Heavy/Speed Metal as Accept, Judas Priest, Muro, Omen, Attila, Rage, and more! 10 is too few, I didn't even mention Metallica's stuff, such as Master of Puppets, Kill 'em All, Ride the Lightning...

Well, you've mentioned enough in the end, hehe! We've reached the end. Please roar some last words into the underground!

Metal hasta la muerte carajo!!!!!!!! Just be loyal to Metal (if you are really a Metallor), or die in fucking pain!!!!!! Anyway, it's always possible to lie to others, but one can never lie to himself... Just wait for next Death Invoker release... It will be total morbid and unholy Peruvian Metal!!!!!! Thanks to you Sergei for this chance to expose some info about Death Invoker... Go on with your Metal activities!!!!!! See ya in Hell!!!!!!

Thanks! Stay evil!!!

Contact: Juan Carlos Alarco'n Ruiz / Av. Aviacion 2459 - San bojra / Lima 41 - Peru

If you're into South American Deathrash - you've probably heard about this legendary band, which released only some demos prior to the split in the early 90's. Fortunately, recently they rejoined their forces, recorded a new demo and got it released together with all their old stuff. So before they smash all the cheap retro bands with bestial decibels, here is an interview I was glad to have with their vokiller Alejandro. Thrash 'till mysterious death!

Hi Alejandro! How are you these days? What's new in Chile?

Hi and thanx for the interview! Nothing interesting is happening here, winter and presidential elections are the only shit we have by these days...

Winter? Haha, here it's 31 degrees! Well, let's go to the music then... Since Atomic Aggressor was inactive for many years, let's start from the oldest days! Please describe the early days of 1985 when the band was started. How was the band formed? What bands inspired you the most back those days? Why did the band split?

I didn't live the first years of AA, but they started as a Thrashcore band in 1985, I joined the band in early 88, when Death Metal was the new style to play... Morbid Angel and Possessed was our early inspiration to make music, then we recorded 2 demos "Bloody Ceremonial" and "Resurrection"... From 1989 and 1991, then in the middle 1992 we split up, because of studies and a lack of drummer, even though we tried hard to find one.

And how did you spread the message about the band and the demo releases back in the 80's? Did you have many contacts overseas? How often Atomic Aggressor used to hit the stage?

The truth is that in those years two of the founder members of AA (kike and Pato) used to edit a fanzine called "Death Power", through which we made some contacts with other fanzines... So the stuff got spread in many countries. We are very proud of how our music got accepted. And here in Chile we played live in many places and we keep doing it now in our country.

Never heard about that zine... How many issues were made and in what language?

4 issues of Death Power were released, all them written in English. But after we started working with the new line up of AA, the work on both the band and the zine turned very incompatible, so we decided to put all our minds on AA.

Have you got any suggestions to sign with any labels back then? I heard somewhere that you had negotiations with Peaceville, is that true? Why didn't it lead to any results in the end?

Yeah!!!... In the end of 89', we receive a letter from a guy who had been running a subdivision of Peaceville, and we started to talk about an LP, but after that, our first drummer left the band and we got many problems trying to find a new one who would fit the band. At that time Pablo Clares from Totten Korps helped us on drums during a couple of shows and recordings of the second demo.

And you split up, until the recent comeback... Here you all into Metal during all these years? Did the Chilean scene change much during the 90's, when the grunge and shit like that came?

We always were into Metal, besides, as you say, grunge was a very strong movement during 90's, but like every weak trend, it was just a fun for younger people who have no connection with true Metal.

Are there major differences between how the gigs and the crowd in particular used to be 20 years ago and now, or have the Metal maniacs remained Metal maniacs in Chile?

I should say yes, because of the new generation... Young guys are more connected with the outside world, so nothing is really far from them... My generation never dreamed to see Possessed Live or Morbid Angel for example....

Well I'm still dreaming about it, hehe! Judging by the lyrics of Atomic Aggressor (such as "Beyond Reality", "Hallucination" and obviously "The Spell of Necronomicon"), it's obvious that you're deeply inspired by the works of H.P. Lovecraft. As a fan of his stories I'd like to ask you what's your favorite story of this master of Cosmic Horror.

Lovecraft is a master, his literature is an infinite way to be inspired... There is a lot of his stuff that I love, like "At the Mountains of Madness", or tales like ex oblivione, these all are incredible stories to enjoy and get mad!!!

Fuck yeah! What are the future plans about the band's activity? Are you planning to perform live, to record more stuff or maybe even some tour in the near future?

Hell yeah!!!... Both are in our nearest plans... Some of our new tracks are "Blind Servants" and "The Greed Supremacy" and also by these days we are going to play for the first commemoration of one of our first guitar player Jaime Moya (R.I.P.) in his city, in the north of our country... We are very excited about this show, because of the meaning of a show where everybody knows Jaime's story....

Sorry to hear about his death... How did it happen?

He was suffering from a lymphatic cancer for a few years, but Jaime never wanted to get any treatment from the scientific world...

Oh damn, that's fuckin' sad! R.I.P... By the way, recently the legendary PENTAGRAM from your country reunited (again...) and toured in Europe, including even the huge WACKEN fest! Do you have any plans/suggestions to make one as well, at least in South America, or is it too hard to arrange because of daily jobs, money and stuff like that?

Yeah!! They toured here our country as well... It was very good news to hear from them again and see them playing on important festivals... Good news for you: We both are going to open a show for VENOM next December the 9th!!!... Incredible show for the people of my country.... And for me too.

AAARRRRGGGGGGHHHH!!!! Wish I could attend this event! Sounds like a dream! Now, let's move forward to the reissue of your stuff. The most amazing thing I noticed on the 2008 demo "Rise of the Ancient Ones" is that it sounds as a direct continuation of the previous demos, both musically and sound-wise. When were these 3 tracks written and how and where did you record them?

That was the idea.... Make this reunion as if nothing happened during all these years... So we are proud of the sound we achieved in "R.O.T.A.O." All the stuff on that record is from 1990, but there are unreleased tracks like "Resurrection" recorded for the LP. Our drummer is the owner of DM6 studios, so as you see, that made the recording process easier....

Have many other local Metal bands recorded there? Which bands' members are you still in contact since the old days? Are there many of them still into Metal? Please recommend some newer Chilean bands you like!

Uff! There are a lot of stuff that you should hear from that studio... Like Unaussprechlichen Kulten, Force of Darkness, Undertaker of the damned, Hades Archer, Magnanimus, Abrekadaver....etc, there a lot of good bands in my country....

Hell yeah, Hades Archer rules for sure! PENIS METAL!!! Before getting reissued on Hell's Headbangers, "Rise of the Ancient Ones" was unleashed on the Chilean RawForce Recs. on CD. Was it the band's idea or was it offered by the label? How did the contact with Chase & Hell's Headbanger occur? Are you satisfied with the final result?

I really don't know how we got the contact, but I think Pablo Clares (drums) is the one to blame.... And after the work was done, we felt that was a great decision to work with Chase and HHR.... He is a very professional and reliable guy... We were very lucky to find labels like both HHR and RF.

So this reissue is the main inspiration for AA's comeback? :)

I would say that the reissue was a debt we had with all the people who kept supporting us even when we were dead.... And also an inspiration for the work our new stuff.

Hope to hear more new stuff soon indeed! Now give me a list of your all time favorite 10 Metal releases please!

Difficult to say, but let's try:

- 1- Everything - Morbid Angel
- 2- Seven Churches - Possessed
- 3- Reign in Blood - Slayer
- 4- World Downfall - Terrorizer
- 5- Piece of time - Atheist
- 6- Consuming impulse - Pestilence
- 7- Scream Bloody Gore - Death
- 8- Severed Survival - Autopsy
- 9- Black Sabbath - Paranoid
- 10- Next LP - Atomic Aggressor

Any last words before the ancients return and annihilate our race?

Just thanks to you Sergei, for this interview, I really enjoyed answering it... Hail to all bangers over there and keep it brutal forever!!!!

Alejandro

ATOMIC AGGRESSOR

Thanks YOU for your time! Keep deathrashing forever!

Contact: atomicaggressor2007@gmail.com

Blood Pollution - Armed You! (Full Length, CD/Tape, 29a/Maltkross, 2009)



Unfortunately, except for some classic Heavy/Speed/Thrash and some early 90's Death Metal bands, the Russian Metal scene has not unleashed as much great Metal bands as one would expect such a huge country to do, so as someone whose native language is Russian – I was very glad to discover this cool band! The moment I got the CD (which is designed like a black vinyl by the way, cool idea!), put it inside my CD deck and started to explore the lyrics... Well, I almost threw it out of my window, when I saw an Israeli map and words like "Like evil sign, disgusting plans of Jewish force...". Pretty surprising for a band that made the effort of sending a free copy for a review, isn't it? After contacting the band – the explanation I got was that it's not racist, but inspired by movies about the Massons. Well, very stupid of them, but I'll have to believe that it's their retarded ex-guitar player's (who wrote

this song) fault and it's not a Nazi band.

So what do we have here anyway? The band calls it "Thrash N' Roll", and even though I wouldn't say that this is Thrash, it could be felt in the attitude, if not in the music itself. The music itself is a kind of ol' n' good bluesy Rock N' Roll, very inspired by Motorhead and a bit inspired by Punk as well. I wouldn't call it innovative, but nevertheless this formula is not that common (definitely not in Russia, as far as I can see), though it's very cool. The production is very raw and it actually sounds like a forgotten early 80's obscure band, playing primitive and a bit filthy stuff. Think primitive drumming, strong bass presence, warm bluesy guitar sound, simple yet ass kicking solos, drunken vocals with a strong Russian accent and frequent back vocals of the other 2 members that sound not less drunk than the vocalist himself. The lyrics are the link between this band and Thrash, since they deal with issues like chemical waste, moshing, whiskey and the likes. Written in a bit broken English, they're far from being original, but their combination with this machos' R N' R works absolutely fine. Overall - this album didn't make me fall off my chair, though a better production could add it more "punch" and make it sound stronger, but on the other hand – it does differ from the majority of bands that try to sound oldschool nowadays and not worse than them in any aspect, so those who enjoy the Rock N' Roll in Motorhead and Venom would probably enjoy it more than another bunch of Slayer / Metallica clones. 8 / 10

Mens Rea – Single (Self Released CD without artwork, 2009)

This release is probably pretty unusual for this zine, but since it's hard to ignore the phenomenon called "Mens Rea" in my country, especially after the great and very impressive video clip they unleashed, more than 70 local gigs and a tour they did in the USA during only 3 years of existence – I felt compelled to ask the band to send me a promo, even though it's not the stuff I'm used to listen to. The band defines itself as a "Hard Rock / Grunge" band, but fortunately – personally I haven't heard any Nirvana worship here, but way better stuff. This EP reflects the band's mature songwriting style, professional attitude and genuine passion. Recorded very professionally, it has a great sound, yet not overproduced and not sounding plastic. As for the music itself – this is not pure Heavy Metal, but kinda Hard Rock, inspired by classics like Led Zeppelin, Guns N Roses, Scorpions and the likes.

There are 5 energetic songs here, which vary from slow ballads to fast and pretty heavy (for the genre) anthems. These guys know how to handle their instruments and those who are into good guitar solos that don't sound neither Punk-primitive nor prog-masturbating can't go wrong with the passionate guitar work here. The drummer knows what and when to play and thanks to the decent production – the bass presence is felt throughout the whole release. Add a vocalist with a charismatic voice and slight Hebrew accent to the package and you should get the idea. It's not too fast, too heavy or too original, but has a lot of feeling and sounds honest (which is unfortunately a rarity for a band in Israel these days) and easily flowing (nice drinking music I would say!). For those about to Rock – we salute you! And yes, this release has no artwork by the way. 9 / 10



Fingernails - Fingernails/Hell n' Back (Comp. CD, Kuravilu / Denim & Leather, 2006)

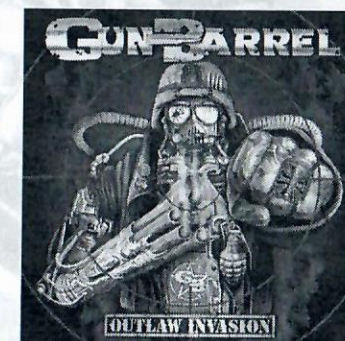
This old Italian band was formed back in '81 and released some demos and an LP (s/t) in the 80's, but split up and reformed around a decade ago to kick some more ass, and nowadays seems to be maybe even more active than before! This CD consists of that s/t album, a promo (11 songs!) from

'05 and a couple bonus tracks that were recorded in '88 and sums up what this band is all about. The debut LP consists of 8 tracks of headbangable Heavy/Speed Metal like early Motorhead. Simple but done in a good taste stuff music-wise, and a vocalist that has a typical Italian accent and resembles Lemmy. You can get the idea about the band's attitude and lyrical topics from the song titles, such as "Heavy Metal Forces", "Crazy for Blowjobs" and "Kill the Rich", don't you? Overall this album is really enjoyable, apart from the fact that the vocalist doesn't sound dominant but pretty boring. Before the second album (Hell n' Back" Promo) kicks in, there are 2 more songs recorded in '88 that could fit in the LP perfectly and don't sound really different. As for the promo – it's a nice surprise, since if you expected it to sound modern and to suck – Fingernails came to disappoint you, since the only change here is the vocals! Expect a "clean" voice and in my opinion, this album is better because of it, since this vokiller has a charisma that the previous didn't. He makes the songs flow better and I would say that the debut sounds drier and even pretty boring compared to this one. Overall this is a gem for those who like simple "working class" HM that sounds simple and "ugly" but passionate and is great to put on the background while drinking. This CD doesn't sound tiring even though it's 70 minutes long! Enjoy! 8 / 10

Gun Barrel - Outlaw Invasion (Full Length CD, Limb Music Prod, 2008)

Formed back in '98 in Germany, Gun Barrel plays something between Heavy and Power Metal and here's their already 4th album, but honestly – that's the first release from their discography that I had a chance to hear. While not being a fan of Rhapsody and other Disney Land Metal, I must confess that rarely do I come across a Power Metal band I enjoy, but despite some not so Metallish violin intro – this album shows that in some stranger eons – even bands that are defined as Power Metal may have balls. The title track already has most of what made me endlessly respect and dig Manilla Road's "Crystal Logic", and that's a compliment for sure! The vocalist reminds of the mighty Shelton here, while the instrumental work is really well done and the epic battle atmosphere is present here as well. The next song "Tomorrow Never Comes" is a rather dramatic rock ballad that opens with acoustic guitars and slowly turns way heavier, while remaining still emotional and dramatic throughout the whole song, presenting the variety that can be found on this album.

This release is over 50 minutes long and has lots of variety in songwriting, be these fine rock ballads, Rock N' Roll anthems like "Cheap, Wild & Nasty" or straightforward Heavy Metal attacks like the great "Front Killers" that closes the album before the outro. In many aspects this album actually reminds me 2000's Iron Maiden because of the great bass presence, some parts where the vocalist reminds of Dickinson and here and there some similar rhythms, but it sounds fresh and definitely not ripped. My personal advice is that if you expected it to be a Sodom worship band because of the cover, just stick to Sodom's stuff before they started to use that soldier on the artworks, but when you want to hear something less dark and evil – give this album a try! And last but not least – don't get fooled by the track list, the songs go exactly in the opposite order from what's written in the track list! 9 / 10





Diabolical Demon Director – The Death Sentence (Demo Tape, Self Released, 2008)

With a green cover, limited to a weird number of 165 copies, comes the nice looking D.I.Y. tape of this Australian trio, which exists since 2001, but started to release their stuff only a couple of years ago. DDD plays kinda weird Thrash, because it more tends to the mid-paced temp than really fast. The good things this band deserves a credit for (beside being honest and nice and having sent 2 promos, hehe) are the fact that they don't sound like they're ripping another band like many tend to do nowadays (including your truly, hehe) and their vocalist has a very strong, bestial voice, that creates a kind of pre-Death Metal atmosphere

throughout the whole release (which is more than 35 minutes long by the way!). The weaker side of this demo in my opinion is that none of the 9 tracks included here sounds really memorable, even after listening to this tape quite many times. It's not that I don't like it, it's still a nice tape to put on the background while doing something else, the band has its touch and potential, but I hope to hear a bit more memorable stuff from DDD in the future. 7.5 / 10

Diabolical Demon Director – Inside the Cistern (DemoCD-R, Self Released, 2009)



Around half a year passed since I got the demo tape and I got this cd-r as well. The sound of this band didn't change, but actually this release is very heterogeneous. It starts with some ritualistic intro that develops into the 1st song "The Demon Chamber", then another song comes, then there is an acoustic guitar outro and 2 songs form a live performance that can also be viewed in video format on PC. And how does it all sound? If you like the previous demo, you will most probably enjoy the 2 new songs that are presented here, since the killer vocals and the not so fast riffs are here and overall the sound is similar – raw but good. The weaker part of this release is in my opinion the 2 live songs, since even though it's a good idea to let maniacs abroad see them hitting the stage, the sound

recording is hardly listenable. The sound quality isn't even decent enough to let the listener understand which song they're playing there. Anyway, the rest is not bad and this music is a grower, so if you don't "fall in love from the first listen" with this stuff – give it a few more listens. One thing is still certain – DDD don't sound like the 94817th Slayer clone or the 93rd Australian band that tries to sound identically similar to older stuff of Destroyer 666. They have their own sound and I have a feeling that they'll bring us better sounding stuff in the future. 7 / 10

Baphomet's Blood – Satanic Metal Attack! (Full Length, 12" Vinyl / Tape, Dark Sun / Kuravilu, 2006)

It would make more sense to review their 2nd album that was issued this year, but since I don't have it yet and just got this recently reissued on tape debut – at least I'll write about this one. If you expected a band with such a name to play Black Metal – you're oh so wrong! This is total disco-destroying Speed Metal made in the best traditions! Fast and headbangable, simple but strong and punishing stuff with pleasant guitar work. Add a vokiller that reminds of Lemmy and last but not least – true spirit of Metal warriors in lyrics, and that is just what Baphomet's Blood is about! If you like Metal – you know that you can't go wrong with a band that writes songs like "Blood, Vomit and Satan", "Satanic Beerdrinkers", "Speed Metal Warriors" and the likes! Do you best to hunt it if you haven't got it yet and listen to it at maximum volume! 10 / 10



Rademassaker / Exorcism (Ger) - Tormented In Gore / Old Grave (7" split, Deathstrike, 2009)

How far can experiments in Death Metal go without turning non-Death Metal? How primitive can Death Metal get at all? Rademassaker answer both of these questions greatly by contributing 2 killer tracks to this split, one of which is a killer cover of Kreator's **TORMENTOR!** They play non-compromising Death Metal without guitar! It's only drums, bass and bestial growling from the depths of Hell! The result is very morbid and evil sounding Death Metal that crushes everything on its way! You gotta hear it to believe how well it works! I'm already addicted to this band, which unfortunately split up already. 10/10

On the other side of this 7" – Exorcism contribute more unholy and rotten, primitive Death Metal. Their mid-paced but heavy as fuck riffing and bassy sound make it hard to believe it was actually recorded in the 2000's! Totally disgusting and dirty music and even uglier vocals, think very drunk Tom. G. Warrior. They're not super-fast or super brutal, but I bet they're more atrocious than any DM band you're recently had a chance to hear! By the way, I must say that I really like the way the 7" comes on Deathstrike. Simple but nice, without any special bonuses that raise the release's value for the wrong reasons (=not because of music). This particular release doesn't even have an artwork, which is pity, but on the other hand – I believe that it will reach only those who truly want to listen to the music, which is great. It also features a regular A4 page with some info about the bands and lyrics, simple but well done! Support! 8 / 10 to Exorcism, 9 / 10 to the split.



Bloody Sign / Rademassaker - Rhythms Of Carnage (7" Split, Deathstrike, 2006)

A 7" with cut & paste sleeve design? Simple but cool! Here is another Deathstrike release that features 2 cruel as fuck Black/Death bands. Bloody Sign plays Death Metal with some BM influences, so the result is raw as fuck sounding 3 tracks that on the one hand have nice DM riffing and cool solos, but on the other hand sometimes sound annoying, when the BM-like screams start. The sound is rather dirty and the music wouldn't sound worse if it was better, but it's still tolerable. 7 / 10

Rademassaker deliver 4 rather unusual for them tracks, since a guitar player is also involved. Overall it's still the same Motorhead-driven and Hellhammering dirty Death Metal with strong bass presence, but different. It's not bad, but I would say that they're better and sound more unique with only the bass. Probably those who can't stand their other stuff would enjoy it more, or at least suffer from listening to it less, hehe!

8/10 to Rademassaker, 7.5/10 to the whole 7".



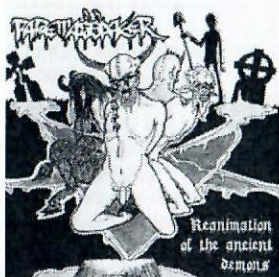
Rademassaker - Primitive Death Attack (Full Length 10", Thirteen Robes, 2008)

Finally a full length from this band! Well, not exactly, since it's only 10" and lasts a bit less than 25 minutes, but hey – there are 11 songs here! It's sad that it's limited to only 222 copies and can still be found in various distros, but I'm really glad to be on of the 222 people who used the chance to order it! It's not the usual mid-paced DM here, but refreshingly sounding stuff, played also on fast temp, morbid as usual sounding, but greatly recorded too! You can understand well what these brothers play, but ov korpse it still has the rawness and the smell of rotting cadavers! The vocals are evil as Hell but not hard to understand, think Cancer/Death Shall Rise. The only thing I didn't entirely like is the drums, that are way too primitive even to my taste, but if you wonder how Obituary's debut would sound if it was recorded in a super-minimalistic way – this album is the best answer! If you're into straightforward DM bands like Nunslaughter and you don't mind some punk as fuck drumming on the background – buy this 10" as long as you can! By the way, as strange as it gets – there's a cover of Obituary's **SLOWLY WE ROT** with the lyrics in the booklet! 9 / 10



Rademassaker - Reanimation of the ancient demons (7" EP, Deathstrike, 2008)

Is there anything I could write about this band that I haven't written in the previous reviews yet? I don't think so, but here is their unfortunately last release, which, as it could be understood from the title, is a rerecording of their old songs. 3 of the 4 songs here appeared on their early releases, which sound here way better than in their original incarnation. While the old recording sounded way more amateurish and poorly sounding, here you get everything more sick than ever, but having a solid sound. The drums parts here are simple but this time just well done, the vokillz are cruel as always, and most important – the bass smashes everything on its way with its low and sick sound. I'm not a supporter of experiments in Metal, but I gotta admit – Rademassaker was a rare case of an experiment that worked! Get their stuff as long as it's available, if you dare! 10 / 10



The Chasm – Farseeing the Paranormal Abyss (Full Length CD, Lux Inframundis, 2009)

When I contacted Daniel Corchado (the leader of this unique band) asking to answer an interview, he refused, claiming that he doesn't do it anymore, since he prefers to let the music speak for itself. Well, this album is really a proof of what he told, since only 4 out of the 8 songs here have lyrics, so most of the time it's instrumental. But guess what? It's so greatly sounding that you will forget that there are no vocals most of the time once you listen to the album and there's no feeling that something is actually missing! Contrary to other bands (e.g. Usurper) that split up after being kicked from Earache since their albums didn't sell well – The Chasm created an album of even higher standards than "The Spell of Retribution" from the point of view of both the songwriting and the production, without any help from a label (L.I. is Daniel's own label)! You can hear EVERYTHING clearly, but the sound is just good and not sterile in a gay way. The artwork is their best in my opinion so far, but thinking about it – they've always been one of the very few bands, whose Photoshop-made artworks DIDN'T suck!



As for the music itself – as usual, expect for some complex and unusual Heavy Metal of Death from the cosmic abyss, as no other band on Earth has ever done before! It's too complex to just describe it by "great riffs/solos", but they're definitely there. If you've never heard this band before – this is a great introduction to The Chasm's unique style, and if you have – you probably got the idea. The lyrics is also an interesting aspect as (un)usual, dealing with Daniel's inner thoughts and struggles, twisted cosmic visions and other not so clear stuff that probably only Mr. Corchado knows exactly what it means. To me at least – lines like "No defeat, no surrender, and as the golden fire responds to my will, (you must) remember that nothing can change the past, forever we are, to roam in this curse...", "No matter how many consequences have arrived, there is no looking back, always forging onwards" or "And so when I reach the chimerical oceans, timeless monoliths of hate, infuriating my cryptic devotion" reflects the essence of The Chasm, as a band that keeps struggling for their existence and always passing through all the trenches on their way (relocation to the US, getting backstabbed by "friends" and labels etc.). These lyrics also contribute to the obscure aura that already covers the music and adds another layer of mysteriousness.

I could keep writing even more and trying to give a better description of what FTPA is all about, but to sum it up – this is probably their best release since the classic "Deathcult to Eternity" and the ultimate proof that this band only gets stronger as the years pass. It's not something like a "Cannibal Corpse inspired band" that you know how they sound before you even hear them, but something one must listen to in order to understand. Buy this album and hear what truly iron willed Death Metal is all about, take my word – you won't regret unless you're a wimp! 10/10

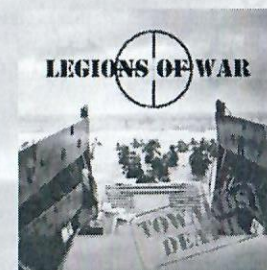
Vastator - Hell Only Knows (Full Length CD, Inferno, 2007)

This obscure Heavy-Speed band from Chile exists since 1986, but that's only their 2nd full length. Overall it has everything one could ask from a classic Metal album – great musicianship, devoted to the true HM roots, yet with its own touch and it's varied as well. You'll find here different temps from acoustic ballads to faster, trashier riffs, talented guitar work, interesting drumming and even the bass isn't neglected and can be heard greatly on this album. Music-wise it could fit even such giants as Judas Priest, Iron Maiden, Manowar or more obscure gems like Manilla Road! But the strongest side, which got me amazed in the beginning and made the album sound tiring later, is the vocals. Nelson (the vocalist) has absolute control over his voice and a very wide spectrum of vocal abilities is presented here, from high as Rob Halford screams to kinda growls (I'm not talking about Metalcore-like gay mixture) and that's what you can hear all the time in this album without a break. It's recommended to fans of classic HM, who can stand even King Diamond's vocals (I can't). 8 / 10



Legions of War – Towards Death (Full Length CD, Inferno, 2009)

LOW was unknown to me before I got the promo of their debut and unless I get another one in the future – I will never listen to them. They claim to be playing "Black/Thrash", but don't expect much Sodom or Bathory, but kinda "black metal" with lots of melodic riffs and solos. The Heavy Metal influenced guitar work is nice, but the mixture with "air riffs" a la '90's Norwegian BM and annoying "dying raven" vocals and an overdose of melody doesn't work in my opinion. The sound is weird – on the one hand you can hear every instrument clearly, on the other hand – you hear it through some wall of raw sound. If they wanted to take Devil Le Rot's "Black NWOBHM" a step further – they failed. If that's a try to "create something original" – I could compare it to a cocktail of beer+vodka – better don't try to mix it even if you like both, simply because the result is bad. 3 / 10



Hatestorm – Filthy Purity (Full Length CD, Inferno, 2009)

The days of superb Heavy/Speed/Thrash from Russia are long gone and switched to useless NSBM (National Socialistic Bullshit Music) long ago. Hatestorm is not NS, but musically they are not more than just another boring, mostly slow-mid paced BM band that tries to mix too many styles but doesn't suggest anything memorable or outstanding, except for some nice bass lines and things I'm sorry I still can remember, like overuse of double bass drumming and some more Death Metal influences in the sound and in some riffs. They have decent solos here and there and overall the music is more complex than average, like in "Legion of War"'s case, but it's a too big mixture of different stuff for a BM album and a too boring BM sounding album to not sound annoying and disposable. Fortunately it's only 30 minutes long and the unpleasant experience of trying to listen to it carefully was over fast enough, even though I had a feeling that it was eternity. 2 / 10



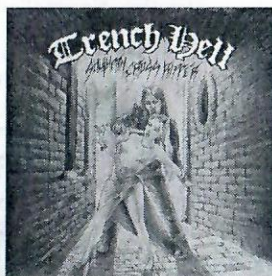
Hellhound – Metal Fire from Hell (Full Length CD, Inferno, 2009)

Here comes my so far very favorite release from the French label Inferno Records, previously released in Japan by Black Listed Records! Take Metalucifer, Iron Maiden, Manowar, Judas Priest, Exciter, put them in a blender and you'll get Hellhound! Yes, this is all what traditional Heavy/Speed Metal is all about! Very pleasant guitar work and overall nice sound, 4 songs out of 8 that have the word "Metal" in their titles and very charismatic vocals with Japanese accent. It's not innovative, but it sounds very fresh and very energetic. There's no point in an overuse of demagogic, just order this CD yourselves and get this dose of genuine Heavy Metal with balls of steel, unless you're a poser fag! 10 / 10



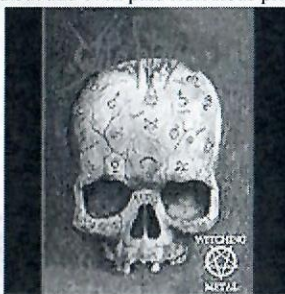
Trench Hell – Southern Cross Ripper (CD/12" EP, Hell's Headbangers, 2008)

After the killer sounding 3 tracks 7", here is the next attack of these Australian Hellhammering band, this time already not a duo but a trio. After the nice Speed Metallish intro, this EP dives straight into the sound and atmosphere of the legendary STANIC RITES demo, delivering raw as fuck blackened Speed Metal that sounds more evil than Satan! Simple but great riffs and obscure sound that totally catches the atmos-fear of Hellhammer's cult demo. If the first association that comes to your mind when you hear "Eurynomos" is NOT Mayhem, if this band is not only not forgotten, but not even buried for you – this is exactly what's missing in your Metal to the bone collection! However, TH didn't simply rip HH's riffs, so the only thing that sounds "copied" here is the vokillz, which sound almost identically similar to the man who once was WARRIOR. Still, this IS a progress since the 7", because the guitar work is way more interesting here. In short, this EP is not a recommendation, it's a MUST HAVE! 9.5 / 10



Witchtrap – Witching Metal (EP from 2000, reissued on Hell's Headbangers on CD/12" in '09)

For many years people were trying to get a copy of this EP that is long sold out and even paid ridiculous prices for it on eBay, but finally it's available again through HHR. The result leaves me wondering whether it is really worth the many dozens of bucks people wasted on it when it was so hard to find, but it surely is worth getting nowadays. Even though I was disappointed with the 2nd LP, this one shows that this band was probably getting better and better before releasing Sorceress Bitch! After the slow intro "Cry War", "Maniac" kicks in, and even though it was already included in Thrash Metal Blitzkrieg VOL. II, I enjoy hearing it again and again. I would lie if I told that the rest of the release in question provides more "variety", so you know what to expect, but contrary to the 2nd LP – it's not loaded with filler stuff. Expect just straightforward Destruction/early Sodom worshipping Speed Metal, raw and evil sounding as it should be, the only way! Buy it, turn it LOUD, and bang your head! 9 / 10



Sabbat (Jpn) - Live In ThaianDemonslaught (Live CD, Witchhammer, 2009)



If you're looking for someone who plays some of the most evil Metal ever while wearing spikes and a diaper, here is another great chance to hear one of the already countless live releases of this cult band! Personally I'm not at all a collector of their live assaults, so I have nothing to compare it too, but it was definitely one Hell of a gig for! Both classick "Black Fire" and "Mion's Hill" from the debut demo+a mixture of songs from Satansword, Karmagmassacre, Envenom, Disembody and Fetishism are nicely executed with a raw and absolutely EVIL sound, though still heard clear enough to be understood an enjoyable. Some cool instrumental parts and guitar solos add some spices to this tasty salad and this more than an hour long attack closes with the old "Darkness and Evil", which originally appeared on their ancient, now impossible to find "Desecration" demo from 1988 and closes with Metalucifer's HEAVY METAL HUNTER, that made the crowd of

Thailandichards who attended this event probably go nuts! I really hope to see a live Israhellslaught play by this great band one day, even though there's no chance for it to happen. As usual – this cd has a nice looking layout done by the Metal Warrior Jerasac, so if you're not into the MFMP (Metal for Milliners Pure) countless below-zero limited releases of Sabbat's live stuff by HMSS – order it as soon as you finish reading this review! 9/10

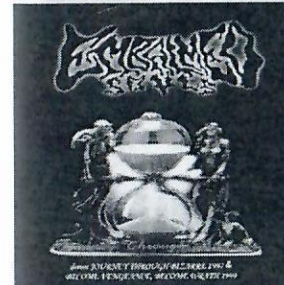
Embalmed Souls - The Temple of Bizarre Cult (Demo Tape/CD-R, Self Released, 2005)

Embalmed Souls is a unique Death Metal band that's been playing this genre and stay devoted to it since 1990, but keeps releasing demos, maybe without any attempt to sign in a label and release a full length. Either way, they do play decent Death Metal, which is what really matters! Despite being a demo, this recording session has a really decent, flawless sound and everything is greatly heard here. Most of the time it's mid paced stuff with a dark atmosphere (think Sadistic Intent) combined with really deep growling (think Immolation e.g.). If you're into really morbid sounding DM that doesn't run forward with a hyper fast speed, but more kinda steadily crushes everything on its way with heavy artillery – that's exactly what you need. If you prefer sterility and technicality over darkness and morbidity – better stay away, fuck off and go listen to the new Pestilence! 9 / 10



The Temple of Bizarre Cult

Embalmed Souls - Journey through Bizarre/Become Vengeance, Become Wrath (Demos Comp. CD-r, Self Released, 2008)

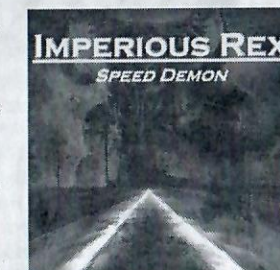


A brief look at ES' discography proves that this band is not really in a hurry and they prefer to take their time, and so are the songs of this CD-R, which features remastered demos from 1997 and 1999. The 6 tracks on "Journey Through the Bizarre" start as very slow Doom/Death, way slower than the stuff in "The Temple...", continue with faster parts and close slowly and dramatically. These tracks are also decently recorded and have the same dark as night atmosphere that is present in their future releases. The songs here are very long, varying between 5 to almost 8 minutes long, but the great guitar solos make them sound more mesmerizing than boring. Still – it's not for everyone and I also prefer my DM played way faster, but even

though it's not 100% my style – it's impossible to deny the obvious quality and charm this band has. One thing is certain – whether you like it or not, it's one Hell of a Deathmetallic torture for your ears for sure! The remaining 5 tracks that are "become Vengeance, Become Wrath" demo continue in the same direction, but something was fucked up in the recording or producing process and the vocals got pushed too much to the background, so they sound even deeper, but way less noticeable here, which is not that good, + there is too much usage of cymbals here, which makes the whole stuff sound a bit tiring, especially considering the fact that this whole CD is more than an hour long! In conclusion – if you're into really dark DM with ritualistic atmosphere and music that torments your hearing massively yet slowly – give this band a try! BUT it's still not a must if you need more speed in your Metal. 7.5 / 10

Imperious Rex – Speed Demon (Full Length CD, Self Released, 2009)

I wouldn't call a 23 minutes long CD "full length", but since most of the songs are +/- 2 minutes long (only 1 reaches 3 minutes) and there are 10 different songs here, let it be. I.R. play Bay Area oriented Thrash and have their own style of songwriting, mixing rough vocals a la' early Metallica with high screams, with most of the time fast and sharp Speed Metal riffs on the background. The sound is raw, but you can hear everything greatly. It's not too technical and boring, but not minimalistic stuff and the musicians know how to write riffs that don't sound worn out. Bands like RTL-era Metallica, Overkill and probably "The Force"-period Onslaught come to mind while listening to this CD, but IR have their own touch and don't sound like another clone project. I think that IR would sound better if only the rough vocals were used, since the other voice here sounds annoying to my ears. Still – there's much potential here and it's not really bad. 7.5 / 10





Bestial Torture / Terrorist / Bestial Reviler - Hellthrashing Warriors (Split CD, Atomic Carnage, 2009)

Here is the first release of the new Russian label "Atomic Carnage", featuring 3 bands from different places around the globe, united by beer and passion to play Black/Thrash. The Finnish Bestial Torture opens with 2 attacks of utter rawness, playing stuff that sounds like something between Early Destruction and Gospel of the Horns. Nice riffs, utterly poisonous vocals and killer solos, that's just what one would ask a band in this genre to create, and BT did it quite well! 9 / 10

Next come 2 new tracks of Terrorist (US), WHO ALSO CAME TO (Black)thrash! Their stuff sounds like a direct continuation of the

previous band, but they sound uglier (in the good sense) yet more monotonous, especially because of the drums, which sound annoying as a drum machine. That's really pity, since the songs themselves are well written and sound like a very simplistic but great homage to early Sodom. Anyway – it's not that bad, but not nearly as good as the previous band on this split. 7 / 10

Last but not least is a great surprise for me, which is finally a RUSSIAN Black/Thrash band Bestial Reviler, who close this split with 3 dirty as fuck assaults, which sound really impressive considering the fact that it's the first time their music is released. Here is a very energetic mixture of Motorhead-inspired intense Thrash riffs meet drunken to death vocals that make Mr. Violence from Gehennah sound neat, and here and there a bit more intense parts that resemble the great Slaughter from Canada. The sound quality here is the rawest on the CD, but it fits perfectly and makes it sound even more like another great old band from the 80's. When all is said and done – this is one Hell of a split and I hope that this label will unleash more great bands like these 3 in the near future! Support them, bastards! 8 / 10 to BR, 8 / 10 for the CD.

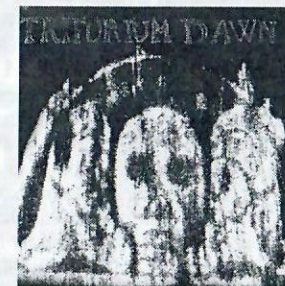
Desultory – From Beyond the Visions of Death (Bootleg CD)



As it can be noticed from the CD's name, which is a words-game – this nicely done and great sounding boot is a compilation of this legendary (by the way – recently reformed and signed to Pulverized Recs.) Swedish band's demos, called "From Beyond", "Death Unfolds" and "Visions", recorded back in '90-'91. These demos, like all the material this band ever recorded – were recorded and produced in the legendary "Sunlight" studio, so the debut demo already sounds professionally done and delivers 4 forever underrated obscure classics, which were never used in any future releases the band did. After a short experimental intro, comes a vicious attack of mid to fast paced Thrashy riffs and mesmerizing solos that create a truly obscure atmosphere. The vocals here aren't typical growling, think drunk and angry A.C. Wild from bulldozer, but VERY angry!

The 2nd demo and the 3rd demos have tracks that were later used on the band's classic debut "Into Eternity", but these are the rawer demo versions, that continue the line of the debut demo, yet have some more treble in their sound, making the 1st one sound darker, and in my opinion – definitely not necessarily worse! Expect more "calm" stuff in "Death Unfolds" and way more aggressive playing style in "Visions", but still characterized by great fascinating riffs and hallucinative solos + more sinister vokillz. If this is not enough – there are 4 more tracks as bonus, recorded live in mid-91, which sound raw, but way better than expected from a bootleg. These are 2 songs from the 2nd demo+1 song from the 3rd+ a cover of Black Sabbath's "Symptom Of The Universe", which sounds more furious than ever here! You can hear every instrument here and this recording sounds more energetic than the studio stuff, so even if you have the demos – better try to get this CD, which is undoubtedly made by devoted fans of the band and not some scum who just wanted to make easy cash. 9 / 10

Triforium Dawn – Spectral Snare (Demo CD-R, Self Released, 2009)



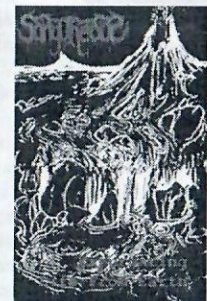
This demo came to me as a total surprise, from some guy who contacted me through snail mail and bought Evil's Best#2, and later sent me this CD, which this band decided to spread only among printed fanzines. This "totally anti-internet" attitude and weird cover "artwork" made me think it was some crappy bedroom BM project, but I was oh so wrong! Actually TD plays really great Heavy Metal with some medieval touch, which reminds me of Slough Feg. It has the necessary dose of rawness of a demo, but it's clear that these aren't just a bunch of kids who decided to rip the classics, but mature sounding material with lots of passion. In the beginning – the drums sounded a bit too aggressive for the genre to me, but then came the great vocals that slightly remind of Bruce Dickinson and the really enjoyable, catchy and memorable guitar solos and after giving this demo a few spins – I already recognize every song and can call it the best surprise of 2009! Unfortunately the lyrics aren't written, but they seem to be rather interesting as well, dealing with old times and legends. I really hope to hear more stuff from this band in the near future, and you – just contact them and get this demo NOW! 9 / 10

Violent Assault – The Flag of the Inverted Cross (Demo Tape, Self Released, 2009)



Surprisingly I got this Cd-r promo, which again proved that the Italian bands are the best when it comes to promotion, since there's no other country I got some many of them from! Thanks! As for the demo itself – after a nice acoustic intro that gets almost ruined by the scream "WAAAARRRRRIIOOORRRSSSSS" of a dude with heavy Italian accent – the Thrash kicks in! Riffing-wise it's heavily inspired by Destruction, and even though I've heard more impressive bands that play the same style – I can't say that it's done badly. This is totally cliché Thrash about Satanism, Metal and other traditional stuff, with nice riffs, fast and cool solos and rough vocals with random a bit funny sounding higher shrieks. The drums sound a bit monotonous and there are a couple more instrumental parts that I think are rather useless – but there IS something special that this demo can suggest, which is guest vocals of Andreas from the mighty German MINOTAUR! When all is said and done – it's not the masterpiece of the year, but it's definitely well done for a debut demo! 7.5 / 10

Sanguineous - Expurgating Life from Earth (Demo Tape, Self Released, 2009)



Sanguineous plays Brutal Death Metal and I'm not the fittest person to review this demo, since I'm not into this style of music, but I'll try. This totally pro tape looks and sounds very professionally done. The sound is good, all the instruments can be heard really well and create a very massive wall of sonic brutality, especially thanks to the hyper-fast and brutal as fuck sounding drum machine, which nevertheless doesn't sound too annoying and plastic. Most of the time it's played on very high temp with quite rare slowed down parts, followed by great very deep growling vocals and ov korpse – very intense guitar riffs. The only exception is the last, 4th track, which sounds rather doomy and slow. I really have no idea which well known bands in the genre to compare them too, but if you like your DM sounding like a never resting machine-gun – you'll probably enjoy it. The negative side of this release is the fact that apart for the last song, it sounds like a 20 minutes long one monotonous song, since even after listening to this tape very carefully a few times – I noticed that one or another track was finished only because of the silence between the tracks. Personally I got very bored despite the aggressiveness of the songs, but if you like Brutal Death – better check this band out yourself. 6.5 / 10

Sargatanas – The Enlightenment (Vinyl DoLP reissue by Terror from Hell, originally released on CD in 1999)

This ancient Mexican Death Metal exists since 1986, but doesn't release its stuff so often, so if you haven't heard about them before – it's about time to check them out! Sargatanas play a mixture of all-extreme Metal where Death Metal is the main conductor, but slower, Doomy influences have lots of presence, together with thrashier parts and an obscure Black Metal aura that covers the sound. The sound is VERY heavy, typical for the Mexican sound of bands like Shub Niggirath and early Cenotaph. Most of the time it's slow-mid paced, but sounds crushing as Hell and has killer sludgy riffs. The sound is very massive throughout the whole album and this album has a truly no-bullshit blasphemous atmos-fear!

The worse part of this album is its length, since while bands like The Chasm succeed to make an hour long album that doesn't sound exhausting, Sargatanas' music is not as interesting (even though still great for those who like the Mexican heaviness), and in addition to the 1 hour long album tracks, there are 7 more bonus live tracks (including a cool Slayer/Black Magic cover that doesn't appear in the track list), which made this release really tiring. By the way – layout-wise Stefano made a killer work here! This gatefold sleeve has an amazingly beautiful drawing at the back side (fiery demons in Hell) and this DoLP also comes with a nice poster. Overall Sargatanas' music is not so catchy and will probably satisfy the needs of only people with a specific taste in Death Metal, but the more you listen to it – the better it sounds, and it's definitely worth a try! 8.5 / 10



Trench Hell/Assaulter - Sadistic Messiah / Beware the Wounded Beast (7" Split, Iron bonehead, '09)

I still haven't put my hands on Assaulter's debut, but from the couple of songs I heard before getting this 7", they sounded like another great Australian and Antichrist band in the vein of Destroyer 666, and their track on this split is probably a logical continuation of their album. Here Assaulter deliver a cool Black/Thrash song that reminds me a bit of "Violence is the Prince..."-era D666 because of its rawness.

Trench Hell, on the other hand, surprised me pretty much with this their new tune, since this time the guitar work is way more interesting and more Speed Metal oriented than their previous stuff. It's not that it's bad – it actually sounds great, but less Hellhammer inspired, apart from the Warrior-like voice of course. That's a rare case of a split that is not 1-sided for me and both bands sound decent and leave craving for more! 9.5 / 10 both.



Corpse Grinder/Cancerbero/Hellfire – Lycifero (Split CD, Dog Fight, 2008)

This split consists of ancient Chilean Thrash/Death demos of these 3 bands, released in the early 90's and some bonus tracks from that period from each band. These were D.I.Y. tapes, so don't expect clean production, but all the stuff is still definitely listenable and not simply crappy sounding. All the 3 bands play Deaththrash the unholy and raw South American way, with the exception of Cancerbero, who had back then a guitar player that was obviously into more progressive stuff, so in addition to the bestial madness, there are also lots of more Heavy Metal oriented solos that on the one hand don't really fit, but still nicely done. The most decent sounding band is probably Hellfire, since they have the best sound "quality" here and sound more coherent than the previous two, but be warned – these demos are not for weak-hearted, pregnant women or fags! The CD also has 3 stickers of the bands' logos by the way, cool looking ones! CG – 8/10, Cancerbero – 8/10, Hellfire – 9/10, average – 8.3/10



Fucking Thrashell#1 (Xeroxed, Russian written, A5 size, 64 pages, 2009)

Alex(umer) from my homeland Ukraine is a 30+ maniac who has an endless passion for praising true fuckin' Metal! He was responsible for RENAISSANCE zine, which survived 4 issues between '98-'02 and now he's back with vengeance! Unfortunately you won't understand what's written in this zine iuf you don't know Russian, but even a brief look at the album covers and bands' pics inside the zine show that there's nothing to go wrong with here! Despite all the pics, however, the font size is very small, so the zine is very rich with content and informative. Here you will find interviews with band that play varied TRUE METAL stuff, such as the Italian Thrashers VEXED, the American GRAVEWORM, EXORDIUM MORS, BESTIAL MOCKERY, WARHAIL, KHORS, GRAVEHILL, VINDICATOR (US), ARBITRATOR, NOCTURNAL VOMIT and VARATHRON. The interviews aren't that long, but definitely interesting to read, and you'll also find here more than 100 reviews of full length albums and demos (and even a few classic horror movies) of great underground Heavy/Thrash/Black/Death bands, written "straight to the point" (and without grades). Very recommended zine, of course – mainly for Russian speakers!



Satanic Panzer#2 (Xeroxed, Russian written, A4 size, 68 pages, 2008)

Seems that Ukraine is not NSBM (National Socialistic Bullshit Music)-only nowadays! However, this IS a mainly BM-oriented zine that features interviews with mostly unknown (and uninteresting) to me bands, such as BLAASH, WHEREMSKIN, BAHIMIRON, CHURCE OF MISANTHROPY, CREPUSCULUM, DEATHGATE ARKANUM, DUSK, EVIL INCARNATE (well, this one is not that unknown), GOATVOMIT666, HAATSTRIJD, IGNIS URANIUM, HAVOC CULTURE, MOLOCH, NATT, PANZERKVL, REVENGE, SAPHURAN, TAARMA and TOXIC HOLOCAUST. There are also many reviews that vary in length and uselessness of the reviewed releases, a Destroyer-666 and Revenge (Can) gig report and wasted space with lyrics translated into Russian, dumb drawings and some Satanic philosophy. The content is definitely not my cup of tea, but those who like BM much and can read Russian might find more interesting than I did. Anyway, Vlad writes in a pretty interesting way and it's not boring to read. Oh, and ov korpse, this zine is limited to 100 hand numbered copies, so either skip it or hurry up before it's sold out.

Putrefactive Effect#4 (Xeroxed, English written, A4 size, 64 pages, 2008)

Wow, this is a real wet dream coming true for Death Metal addicts! Really nicely (some parts are cut n' paste, some are not, there are also many cool pictures and watermarks on background etc.) designed and interestingly written unholy bible for true perverts, featuring 100+ honest reviews (Jimmy doesn't mind to tell what he thinks about the music and low grades aren't rare) and informative, easy flowing and at times funny interviews with varied bands that play Heavy, Thrash and ov korpse DEATH METAL! The bands are ABOMINAT, CARBONIZED 16 YEARS OLD VICTIM, DRAWN AND QUATERED, RESISTANCE, DEATH INVOKER, INFINITUM OBSCURE, DARK REMAINS, ST. ERIK, DARK MANAGARM, CEREBRAL EFFUCION, SANGUINEOUS, INTERNECINE EXCORIATION, BLACK SISTER and also BURNING DOGMA RECORDS and Stefano of PRAYERBOOK ZINE & TERROR FROM HELL Records. In addition, there are also some live reviews. Fuckin' A!

Auroeroticaphyxium#14 (Xeroxed, English-written, A4 size, 52 pages, 2008)



Well, this zine is not really for everyone I think. I'll be honest and say that I simply didn't read most of it, simply because I expect information about music and not random people who either draw something or run radio stations. It does feature an interview with Merciless death, but I couldn't care about them less, haha! Anyway, the writers of this zine are open minded dudes and there are close to 100 reviews of recent releases, both of underground and not underground bands, from pretty much any Metal sub genre. A few pages are just wasted on pives of (not that pretty) chicks, but overall it might be interesting for those who read zines mostly for reviews and don't mind some interviews that aren't with bands. The list of interviews is longer than mu whole review, so for sanity's sake I won't write it down here.

Morbid Tales#6 (Pro-printed, English written, A4 size, 120 pages, 2009)



Even though this issue's print run is as big as 1000 copies, it might be sold out when this zine is out, and definitely for the right reasons, since this one is a true masterpiece! Annick worked really hard on it for 2 years and the result looks amazing, with lots of effort put into EVERY page! It's not only greatly designed, but also content-wise killer and very informative! You'll find here some reviews of albums, demos & zines, record shops guides in many different countries around the globe, cool live reviews and interesting to read (even if like me, you aren't into some of the bands' music) live interviews with the following bands: SOOTHSAYER, ELIXIR, SACRED BLADE, DARKTHRONE, PAGAN ALTAR, METALIAN, INEPSY, MORNE, FLOWER TRAVELLIN' BAND, TROP FE'ROSS, FAUSTVOVEN, LAMP OF THOTH, CAULDRON, PORTRAIT and VOIVOD. And if that's not enough – there's also a

HELLBENT FOR COOKING section, with receipts given by different Metal bands! And last but not least, like in this zine, you'll find there more exclusive comics of Julien aka NAGAWIKA! Order this zine NOW, and if you're interested – the BOOK "Hellbent for Cooking" is will be out soon as well!



Prayerbook#3 (Pro-printed, English-written, A4 size, 40 pages, 2007)

Cut n' paste style and glossy paper? Original idea, but what really matters in the end is the great passion and open mildness of Stefano, the editor, who's been devoted to the underground for many years and also runs the Terror from Hell label. Expect around 200 very short reviews of both demos and albums in various formats, of bands that play music that varies from Rock to Heavy/Doom/Thrash/Black/Death Metal and some Hardcore & Grindcore as well, nice looking design and many pictures (not too big ones) and informative reviews with the bands WYTCHKRAFT, NOCTURNAL VOMIT, FUNERUS, VARATHRON, XIBALBA, RIGOR SARDONICUS, DRILLER KILLER, WEAPON, ABYSMAL GRIEF, DECEASED, MINOTAURI,

KRATORNAS, PAGAN RITES, SCURVY. And if it's not enough – there's also an A3 sized double sided Autopsy/Voivod poster! PB could probably satisfy any Metal maniac!

Grind the World#1 (Xeroxed, Russian-written, A5 size, 72 pages, 2008)

This a really nicely looking and intelligently written (in russian) fanzine! The editors don't limit themselves to Metal only, so you might read here both about cool Punk bands and true Metal bands! There are dozens of interesting reviews (without grades) here, as well as a couple of live reports, a very detailed biography of Manilla Road and interviews with both small and bigger bands, which are DARKTHRONE, CRUCIFIER, STYATE OF DECAY, HELLBOMBS and YDINTUHO. The layout is a bit too computerized looking, but it doesn't suck. It even looks more appealing than some hardly readable vberkvlt cut n' paste stuff. A real pleasure to read if you know Russian!



Rites of Zygadana#1 (Pro-printed, English-written, A4 size, 16 pages, 2009)

Peter "Kreator" used to edit another zine when he used to live in Poland, but stopped doing it around a decade ago, when he relocated to the US. But I guess his tastes in Metal haven't changed, so the result is a free (!) 1st issue, featuring a couple dozens of reviews and live reviews and interviews with MYTHOLOGICAL COLD TOWERS, STILLBORN, THRONEUM, INFERNAL EXECRATOR and MAGNUS. Thanks for the fact that the font is very small, this issue came out pretty informative and interestingly written, with lots of passion. The design is also nice, with not much space waste. Overall a great (re)start!



**Legion of Torture
'zine # 1**



legionoftorture@hotmail.com

Legion of Torture#1 (Xeroxed, English-written, A5 size, 40 pages, 2009)

That's the very same zine you've read about in the Death Invoker interview. What could I write about a zine that has a full page ad of Evil's Best? Killer, hahaha!!! Now seriously – not bad at all English level for a South American zine, not much usage of CAPITALS-WRITTEN WORDS (JAJAJAJAJA!!!!) and excitement and devotion that can be felt in anything JC writes, especially the detailed description of Iron Maiden's gig in Peru (1st ever)! There are a couple dozens of reviews of mainly unknown demo bands and interviews with INFERNAL CONJURATION, EVIL DAMN, PATHOGEN, NECROFUCKER, LANTERN and RECRUCIFY. Some of the stuff is cut n' paste and some not, with little amounts of space waste. Support this zine!

Abhorrent Decay#1 (Xeroxed, English-written, A5 size, 40 pages, 2009)

Here is a really killer zine for all those who crave for Death fvkkin' Metal! The only bad thing I could say about it is that some interviews are rather short, but overall it's informative and interested to read, since the editor has a really wide knowledge of the genre. Expect interviews with both ancient legends and young avengers EXCRUCIATE, ANATOMIA, GRAVEYARD, SWALLOWED, MORDICUS, ALTAR, MIASMAL, SLUGATHOR and some reviews, nicely packaged in a simply pc-designed 40 pages zine. It could be longer, a s I told, but it's surely a good start!



Demented Omen of Masochism#1+#2 (Xeroxed, English-written, A4 size, 24 & 46 pages, 2007/8)



Here is another zine written by a Polish guy, also named Peter. Before I got both of these issues in a trade, I heard some very positive feedback about D.O.O.M, but well, I got a bit disappointed with this zine. Issue#1 features interviews with DEGIAL, MODER, SABBAT, INFERNAL RITES, MORGUE, IN SOLITUDE, MASSACRE, THRONEUM, BESTIAL RAIDS, HELLFIST, ZEMIAL, ZARACH 'BAAL' THARAGH, SETHALNS, MERCILESS DEATH (US), Yosuke of NWN! Prod and.. NOTHING else. The design is very poor cut n' paste, but with minimum space waste. But what is that I could not like about a zine that features interviews with bands like Sabbat and Massacre? Terrible English level that caused me headache and utterly dumb questions that disclose Peter's young age and can ruin an interview with a rather good band! Asking Kam Lee why he doesn't pose in leather coats on promo pics and "Was Chuck a bastard?" are just a couple of "classic" stupid questions that don't really contribute anything here.



So Peter grew up a bit and unleashed a better zine, with better interviews (and in my opinion – more good bands), featuring interviews with ENFORCER, ABHORROT, DECEASED, SADMATOR, VOIDS OF VOMIT, KRATORNAS, SANGUIS IMPERIUM, BLACK WITCHERY, MANDATORY, IRONFIST, RESURRECTION, PYOVELI, RIOTOR, ROT, PSEUDOGOD, PERSECUTOR, LEICHENGOTT and a very interesting interview with the editor of NECROSCOPE zine. This time the English level is more tolerable and there are less stupid questions, though such as "Don't tell me that you're against war!" (And what the fuck do you know about it at all?!) got me convinced that there's nothing more smart to expect in the near future from this zine and these 2 issues are enough for me for a while. There are also many reviews of different releases, movies and zines written in Polish, which are pretty useless if you don't tell me this language, and the layout is similar to the debut, so sometimes you'll have to turn your head in 90 degrees to read some parts. Anyway, it's up to you to decide whether you want to take your chances with this zine, since it features good bands, but as I told – annoying interviews with them



Auroeroticasphyxium#15 (Xeroxed, English-written, A4 size, 64pages, 2009)

Shortly after I got the previous issue, I made another trade for the new, 15th issue of this weird zine, so I could have a zine with my own zine's review, hehe! Again – it's full of information about various labels, zines editors and other people I care about way less than about those who might be playing in bands I might be interested to listen to, so I pretty much skipped most of the zine to the reviews again. This time the zine is bigger than the previous issue, so those who are more open minded than me might find it really useful and informative. Inn short – try this out if you want something different, but you've been warned – it's a "love it or find it too useless" kind of zine!

Violent Moshground#67 (Xeroxed, English-written, A4 size, 32 pages, 2009)

After 21 years of activity and 66 Duth-written issues (!!!!!!!), Patchman Marco and Mark Angelraper started to write in English and created another killer and very informative zine! Expect dozens of reviews and nicely written interview that will bring useless information not only about music, bands' histories etc, but also the interviewed guys' favorite porn actresses, hehe! Really easy flowing, nicely written stuff! The interviews are with ALIEN FORCE, BISON BC, CHAINSAW, DAMAGE, LAZARUS AD, ILLUMINATION, J. RAD, MYSTERY BLUE, RAT FINK, SATHANAS, THANATOS, WARMMASTER & WOLF. In short – you can't go wrong with these 2 old and open (?) minded old maniacs!

Violent Moshground#68 (Xeroxed, English-written, A4 size, 36 pages, 2009)

Is there really anything new that could be said about this great ancient zine that hasn't been said before? Probably not! One thing is certain – these 2 bastards are productive as Hell! 3 months later – another issue, this time 4 pages bigger than the previous, and again – mostly killer stuff that should satisfy the needs of ANY Metal maniac! This time the interviews are with ASPHYX, COBRA, IRON KOBRA (on the front page!), DEATH MASK, EINSATZKOMMANDO, EVIL WARRIORS, GOD DETHRONED, INCREMENTAL, JACKAL, MADHOUSER, PREMATORY, ROXXCALIBUR, SOLDIER NOIZ, SLOUGH FEG, UFO, VANDERBUYST and WARBRINGER! Buy or die!

Thrash Attack#7 (Xeroxed, English-written, A5 size, 72 pages, 2009)

It's a shame I'm the only Israeli guy who has this zine, and I hope this review might change it, since the editor Florian made another killer issue here! Nice cut n' paste layout with different pictures on the background on every page, around 80 reviews, zine recommendations and killer interviews with Bastardator, Hellhound (US), Ketzer, Iron Kobra, Power from Hell, Warhammer and Nasty Savage! The only thing I dislike here is the Nasty Savage review, contributed by some Hungarian dude. This interview, as well as the interview with HIRAX and Morbid Saint in the previous issues, MUST be edited! It's really annoying to read an informative answer that answers 3 of the following questions, and then see these questions and feel how the interviewed dude gets tired of the intie. One thing is certain – it's very detailed! Anyway, this zine is a MUST have for proud Thrashers!

Baphomet#2 (Xeroxed, English written, A4 size, 32 pages, 2009)

If you don't know when this zine was released – there's no chance you'll guess it's not from the 80's! Cut n' paste design, mainly 80's bands oriented biographies, interviews and a few reviews. It has lots of space waste (the last 2 pages are absolutely blank, big font, big pictures etc.), but looks cool. As for the written content – it should be interesting for those who like Black Metal, especially when the line between Black & Death was really thin. The interviews (rather short in most of the cases) are with GOATVOMIT, BESTIAL SUMMONING, SATANIC EVIL, VRYKOLAKAS, HELL SAW, ANGEL BUTCHER, PROFANCER, CEMETERY, BLACK CRUCIFIXION, EMBRACE OF THORNS and the legendary German POISON. This zine is not for everyone, but if you're into bands like Blasphemy – buy it!



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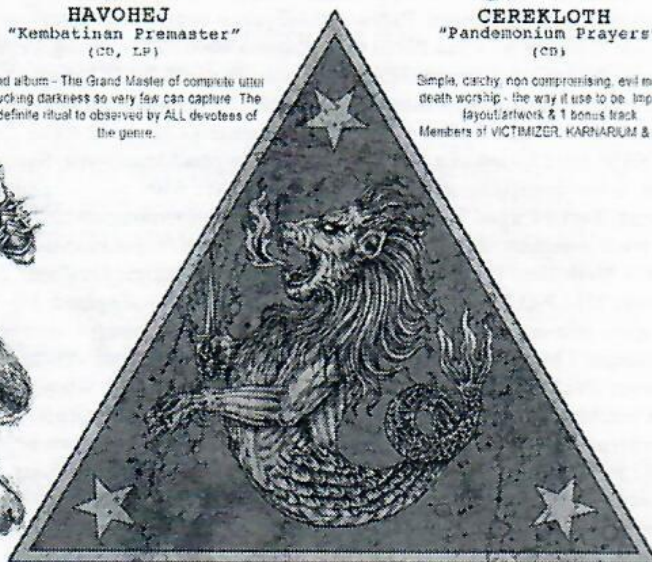
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